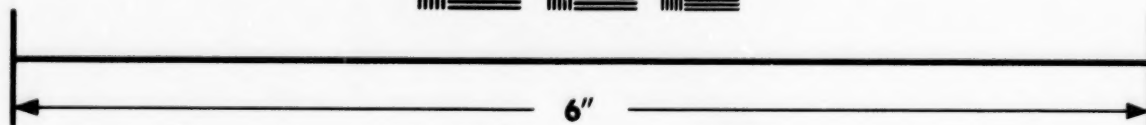
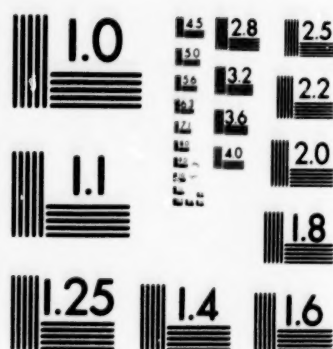


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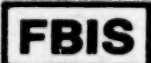
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1 September 1983

LATIN AMERICA REPORT

No. 2734

CONTENTS

ENERGY ECONOMICS

BARBADOS

Briefs

Oilfield Spending	1
-------------------	---

COLOMBIA

Government Sets New Natural Gas Prices (EL TIEMPO, 26 Jul 83)	2
--	---

JAMAICA

Japan Offers Loan for Purchase of Two Generators (THE DAILY GLEANER, 16 Jul 83)	3
--	---

Plan To Improve Electricity Distribution Under Way (THE DAILY GLEANER, 27 Jul 83)	4
--	---

COUNTRY SECTION

INTER-AMERICAN AFFAIRS

Barbados Queries Trinidad Entry Refusal to Businessman (THE NATION, 27 Jul 83)	7
---	---

St John Discusses Trinidad Licensing for Barbados Products (THE NATION, 15 Jul 83)	9
---	---

Grenadian Urges Self-Reliance on Caribbean Unionists (SUNDAY ADVOCATE, 10 Jul 83)	10
--	----

Caribbean States Move To Boost Earnings Through Agriculture (BARBADOS ADVOCATE, 11 Jul 83)	11
---	----

Caribbean Cargo Airline Advances, Weighs Service to Belize (THE NATION, 13 Jul 83)	13
Adams Proposes Stamp Duty as One Way To Assist CARICOM (TRINIDAD GUARDIAN, 5 Jul 83)	14
CARICOM Symposium Told Guyana May Be Dropped From CMCF (BARBADOS ADVOCATE, 20 Jul 83)	16
ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA	
Government Denies Products Are Relabeled for Export (BARBADOS ADVOCATE, 14 Jul 83)	17
Briefs	
Economic Growth	18
Bank Strike	18
BARBADOS	
Speculation on Coming Changes in Diplomatic Assignments (Patrick Ward; SUNDAY SUN, 17 Jul 83)	19
Colombian Ambassador Notes Desire for Closer Ties (BARBADOS ADVOCATE, 22 Jul 83)	20
Opposition DLP Predicts Victory in Next Election (THE NATION, various dates)	21
Taitt at Party Rally	
BLP Constituencies Scheme	
DLP Candidates	
Adams Notes Dissatisfaction With Ministry of Transport (BARBADOS ADVOCATE, 27 Jul 83)	23
Barbados Getting Quick \$20 Million From Caribbean Facility (Hartley Henry; THE NATION, 15 Jul 83)	24
Workers Union Concerned Over Jobs, Assails Blackman (Various sources, various dates)	25
Alarm at Termination Rate	
Challenge to Blackman	
Criticism in Parliament	
Adams on Housing, Jobs	
Briefs	
New Co-Op Laws	28
Tourism Increase	28
Sugar Support Plan	28

BRAZIL

Continuing Rise in Public Sector Spending Discussed (O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO, 24 Jul 83)	30
Poll Reveals Lack of Confidence in Latest Economic Package (O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO, 24 Jul 83)	33
Air Force, Army Generals: Indirect Elections Preferable (O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO, 21 Jul 83)	35
Attack Plane for 'Minas,' Corvettes for Navy Announced (O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO, 26 Jul 83)	37
Briefs	
UNE Headquarters	39
Crop Damage	39

COLOMBIA

Trade Associations Say Port Strike Is Failure (German Navarrete; EL TIEMPO, 26 Jul 83)	40
---	----

GRENADA

GLEANER Publishes Letters From THE GRENADIAN on Elections (THE DAILY GLEANER, 18 Jul 83)	43
Point-by-Point Analysis of Misleading Economic Statistics (THE DAILY GLEANER, 16 Jul 83)	45
Bishop Lashes Out at Trinidad-Tobago 'Media Mafias' (BARBADOS ADVOCATE, 14 Jul 83)	47

GUATEMALA

Agronomist Applauds Incentives for Cotton, Tax Reform (DIARIO DE CENTRO AMERICA, 2 Aug 83)	48
Industries Need 'Corfina' Loans To Avoid Bankruptcy (PRENSA LIBRE, 11 Jul 83)	50
Chamber of Tourism Confirms Report That Tourism Not Recovering (EL IMPARCIAL, 11 Jul 83)	51
ATAGUA Releases Sugar Studies (DIARIO DE CENTRO AMERICA, 11 Jul 83)	52
Briefs	
Cotton Sales to Taiwan	54
Cocoa Bean Production	54
Cotton Brings Foreign Exchange	55

CUYANA

Briefs

Sugar Target Shortfall	56
------------------------	----

HONDURAS

RNP Director Refutes Liberal Party Charges (LA TRIBUNA, 29 Jul 83)	57
---	----

JAMAICA

PNP Raps U.S. 'Aggression,' Offers Central America Plan (THE DAILY GLEANER, 30 Jul 83)	60
---	----

Joint Jamaican-Mexican Group To Study Trade Relations (THE DAILY GLEANER, 23 Jul 83)	62
---	----

Manley Says PNP Policies Would Bring Social Growth (THE DAILY GLEANER, 28 Jul 83)	63
--	----

Shearer Notes Exporters' Plans for Exploiting U.S. Market (THE DAILY GLEANER, 29 Jul 83)	64
---	----

PNP Statement Urges Changes in Legal Legislation (THE DAILY GLEANER, 16 Jul 83)	66
--	----

Irrigation Systems Undergoing Expansion Throughout Island (THE DAILY GLEANER, 16 Jul 83)	68
---	----

Government MP Predicts Revolt If No Action Taken on Rural Needs (THE DAILY GLEANER, 1 Aug 83)	70
--	----

Workers Party Condemns Arrest of Member Visiting U.S. (THE DAILY GLEANER, 30 Jul 83)	73
---	----

Government Seeks \$40-Million Loan for Factory Rehabilitation (THE DAILY GLEANER, 16 Jul 83)	75
---	----

Minister Comments on Agricultural Imports, Other Issues (THE DAILY GLEANER, 16 Jul 83)	77
---	----

Analysis Made of Problems Facing Sugar Industry (Franklin McKnight; THE DAILY GLEANER, 29 Jul 83)	78
--	----

Briefs

Voter List Postponement	80
Criticism of Manley Trip	80
Water Protest	80
Morant Bay Housing	81
Building Industry Problems	81

ST CHRISTOPHER-NEVIS

Briefs

Nevis Elections	82
-----------------	----

ST VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES

Briefs

Threat to Public Service
Private Sector Head

83
83

BRIEFS

OILFIELD SPENDING--BARBADOS is to spend some \$9 million on upgrading and improving the facilities at the Woodbourne, St. Philip oilfields. According to Minister of Energy, Senator Clyde Griffith, this money will come from the Venezuela Investment Fund in the form of a soft loan--to be used for petroleum projects. Griffith was speaking to the Press after a tour of the Woodbourne oilfield yesterday. The \$9 million was accumulated through the Venezuela-Mexican oil facility which provides petroleum to Caribbean countries at a cheaper rate. The energy minister said Barbados' application for the loan had been approved by the Venezuelan authorities. He stated that the future for the oil industry in Barbados looked good, and Government was looking at a comprehensive contract for offshore seismic surveys. Noting that his ministry was still working out details, Griffith pointed out that there were plans to drill a well 30 miles off-shore in some 6 000 feet of water--the first of its kind in the world. It was a high risk venture and had to be examined carefully, he said, adding that a British firm had shown interest in the project. On the future of the local oil refinery, Griffith said that a decision was expected to be made in a few weeks time. Director of petroleum and natural gas, and chairman of the Barbados National Oil Company Limited, Mr. Louis de Verteuil, said the aim was to drill about 1 300 barrels of oil a day by the year-end. [Bridgetown THE NATION in English 13 Jul 83 p 28]

CSO: 3298/822

GOVERNMENT SETS NEW NATURAL GAS PRICES

Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 26 Jul 83 p 9-C

[Text] The government set new prices for natural gas yesterday [25 July] and approved a series of incentives for domestic exploration for this form of fuel.

At the same time the government ordered the readjustment of those prices every 6 months for natural gas discovered in the future, in accordance with variations in the export price of fuel oil during the previous year.

The policy on gas prices and incentives was approved in Resolution 61 of 22 July by the Commission on the Prices of Petroleum and Natural Gas.

The new prices are in effect for natural gas associated or not associated with petroleum which comes from new fields discovered after the date that this resolution enters into effect.

The prices fixed by Resolution 61 for the new fields are \$2 and \$2.20 per million BTU's [British Thermal Units] of natural gas not associated with petroleum, depending on the area where the related exploration and production of this fuel takes place. The price of \$2 per million BTU's will apply to those discoveries of natural gas on the North coast of the country and the valley of the Magdalena River. The price of \$2.20 per million BTU's pertains to discoveries of natural gas made in the eastern region (East of the Cordillera Oriental mountains) and in the offshore coastal region. As far as associated gas is concerned, that is, natural gas which is produced along with petroleum, the resolution referred to above provides that its price must be 50 percent of the price for non-associated natural gas.

It is important to point out that these prices, which will be in effect for natural gas discovered in the future, will be adjusted every 6 months in accordance with changes in the export price of fuel oil during the immediately previous year.

To provide an incentive for natural gas exploration, in view of the fact that it is anticipated that the country will need additional natural gas in the future, hopefully to be found close to existing markets, the same resolution authorizes payment in foreign exchange of up to a maximum of 75 percent of the prices indicated above for natural gas not associated with petroleum which is processed or used in Colombia.

JAPAN OFFERS LOAN FOR PURCHASE OF TWO GENERATORS

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 16 Jul 83 p 1

[Text] The Government of Japan through its overseas Economic Cooperation Fund (OECF) has extended to the Government of Jamaica a loan of 10.234 billion Japanese Yens (approximately US\$40 million) to purchase two barge-mounted 20-Megawatt slow-speed diesel units.

Letters of Agreement between the two governments were signed by Prime Minister Edward Seaga and the Japanese Charge d'Affaires, Mr. Isamu Kodama, at Jamaica House on Wednesday.

"The two units, which are to be acquired by the Jamaica Public Service Company, will be of considerable assistance in improving the efficiency and reliability of the country's generating capacity," the Prime Minister said at the signing ceremony.

A Jamaica House release said the slow-speed diesel units, which will use Bunker C oil, are to replace some of the old and inefficient steam units at the Hunts Bay 'A' Station. Their installation will therefore eventually result in considerable savings in fuel costs. They are to be mounted on a barge which will substantially reduce the cost of installation which would be higher if the units were located on land. They are to be in place 20 months after the signing of the contract, which is expected to be concluded after the visit of a technical team from Japan early next month.

The loan is being extended to Jamaica on extremely favourable terms. It is repayable in 18 years after a grace period of seven years at an interest rate of 5 3/4 per cent.

In expressing appreciation to the Government of Japan, the Prime Minister said that this was the second major loan extended to the Government of Jamaica during this financial year. A loan agreement was signed last month for 5.941 billion yens (approximately US\$25 million) to finance a 3,500-acre Blue Mountain Development Project in the Shirley Castle/Claverty Cottage area of West Portland. The present loan brings the total assistance from the Government of Japan to Jamaica to approximately US\$65 million.

Also present at the signing of the Letters of Agreement on Wednesday were the Hon. Parnell Charles, Minister of Public Utilities and Transport, Mr. Orville Cox, Chairman of the Jamaica Public Service Company, and Mr. V. W. Picken, Managing Director of the JPS.

CSO: 3298/823

PLAN TO IMPROVE ELECTRICITY DISTRIBUTION UNDER WAY

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 27 Jul 83 pp 1, 25

[Text] THE JAMAICA PUBLIC Service Company Limited (JPSCo) has embarked on a comprehensive upgrading of its transmission and distribution systems, geared towards improving electricity distribution throughout the island.

Public Utilities and Transport Minister, the Hon. Parnel Charles, announced this in the House of Representatives yesterday in contributing to the debate on a resolution seeking the House's approval for the granting of a Government guarantee under the Approved Organizations and Authorities Loan (Government Guarantee) Act of a loan of US\$3.03 million to the JPSCo from the Morgan Bank of Canada.

The resolution was piloted by the Minister of State in the Ministry of Finance, the Hon. St. Clair Shirley, on behalf of the Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, the Rt. Hon Edward Seaga. It was approved, after debate.

Mr. Charles said that three more small loan agreements were to be brought to the House of Representatives during the course of this week, bringing the total to US\$15 million for upgrading the transmission lines of the company.

The Minister said that new transmission lines were built across the country from Oracabessa to Annotto Bay, Tredegar in St. Catherine to Bellevue in St. Ann, and from Bogue in Montego Bay to Duncans in Trelawny.

The Oracabessa to Annotto Bay line was already in service, the Tredegar to Bellevue line would be in service by the end of September, and the Bogue to Duncans line early next year. In addition, several sub-stations were being built and others extended and upgraded.

"When all these new transmission lines are in service, they will significantly improve the reliability of the system islandwide, particularly to the North Coast area which is often affected by low voltage," he said.

Carrying the resolution, Mr. Shirley said that the purpose of the loan was to facilitate the purchase from Westinghouse in Canada of distribution transformers and other related equipment for the JPSCo.

The company would repay the principal amount in seven equal instalments commencing six months from the end of the drawdown period, but not later than January 1, 1984, at interest of $3/4$ of 1 percent above the six months Liber rate. There was also a commitment fee of $1/2$ of one percent of the unused portion.

Supporting the resolution, Mr. Charles said that there were complaints, particularly by housing developers, that the JPSCo had been unable to complete electrical installations. The company, he added, had been experiencing problems in obtaining the necessary foreign exchange to obtain certain types of material, including transformers.

The loan would go a far way to deal with this problem, and efforts were being made by the company to acquire other essential spare parts.

Recalling that two Saturdays ago there were power outages mainly in the Corporate Area, the Minister said that the outages were not because of a lack of generating capacity at Hunts Bay and Old Harbour; there was enough power, but the problem was a transmission fault.

"You can have all the power but if the high-tension transmission lines which take electricity from the plant to towns and villages across the nation are not in good shape, then we will still have problems," Mr. Charles said.

With this in mind, the JPSCo had embarked on a comprehensive upgrading of its transmission and distribution systems.

Speaking for the Opposition, Mr. Terrence Gillette said that the Opposition had no conflict with the purpose of the loan but there were no guarantees from the Government as to what systems and measures were going to be used to get money locally generated to service these loans, adding that some form of direct taxation might arise from these loans.

He spoke of "mysterious things" happening at the JPSCo, of people complaining of signing contracts they never saw, disconnections and other improprieties such as the removal of the meter causing the householder to pay some \$150 for its reconnection.

Responding, Mr. Charles said that when the JPSCo had the ability to sell its service, which was electricity, the company would have the ability to collect. The fact that people were complaining that their electricity bill had been increasing had caused the company to set up a Complaints Desk to examine these matters; and the Government had appointed an Ombudsman responsible for Public Utilities.

On the point of disconnection, the Minister said disconnection was not 'sold' to the public; any person whose electricity was disconnected caused it on their own.

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Information, the Hon. Mike Henry, said that people in his constituency had to pay excessively for the return of

their meters in the event of a disconnection. If this was not known by the Minister, he said, he would like some clarification.

House Leader, the Hon J.A.G. Smith, said that the purpose of the loan was to expand the electricity system and reduce the number of outages after the expenditure of a great amount of money. This, he said, would now help the company to step up on its distribution.

On the question of the generation of money to service the loans, the Minister said that either the rates would go up or the Government would have to pay the guarantee. He said that the new cost for the installation of a meter was \$35.

Closing the debate, Mr. Shirley thanked the members for their contribution.

CSO: 3298/823

BARBADOS QUERIES TRINIDAD ENTRY REFUSAL TO BUSINESSMAN

Bridgetown THE NATION in English 27 Jul 83 p 1

[Text]

THE Ministry of Foreign Affairs is to take up the issue of a Barbadian businessman and sports promoter who was refused entry into Trinidad and Tobago on Monday night.

Attorney-General, Louis Tull, told THE NATION that he had been informed of the incident in which managing director of Foster Lodge and Hoyte's Quarries and chairman of Charity Sports Promotions, Mr. Courtney Selman, was refused entry at Piarco International Airport, after arriving there from Guyana.

Selman said it was about 6:45 p.m. when he arrived at the airport on board a Guyana Airways flight, and as he approached the immigration counter with other business associates and friends, was told by the immigration officer on duty that he would have to wait until the supervisor arrived.

This took ten minutes, and when the supervisor arrived, a Mr. Anthony Hoesin, he told Selman that he had been denied permission to enter the country.

Selman, a former Barbados cricketer, added that he asked for a reason, and was told that permission was denied because he had been involved in organising the recent rebel cricket tour of South Africa.

"I wish to categorically deny that I had anything to do with that tour. I have not received a penny from anyone in South Africa," Selman added.

ADVOCATE

The angry businessman added: "I would also like to make it known that I have always been a strong advocate of the consistencies of the Guyana prime minister as far as South Africa is concerned.

"I would not encourage anyone to go to South Africa."

Following the episode at the immigration desk, Selman added, he was escorted by Mr. Vernon Browne, a security officer with Patrollers Security Services, to a small room where he was kept for three hours before being put on a LIAT plane to Barbados.

He said that although he was not mistreated while at the airport, he was not given anything to eat or drink — not even a glass of water; and he gladly looked forward to the cup of coffee which was served by LIAT.

"It was a traumatic experience, and I had to go through a lot of mental anguish. I would like those rabbits in Trinidad to investigate such charges before taking such drastic action.

"I just can't understand how they can charge that I was connected with racist South Africa and then turn around and treat me that way without checking.

"They have treated me as I would have expected if I was travelling to South Africa," Selman added.

Yesterday morning Selman took up the matter with Attorney-General, Louis Tull, and with his lawyer, Mr. Elliott Mottley, QC.

He said that he was expecting some kind of decent explanation for the action and would possibly take legal action against the government of Trinidad.

"We will be raising the matter with the Trinidad government," Tull said.

The businessman said that the action had affected plans he had for discussions with counterparts in that country, and would most likely affect business with the Miami-based company, Diversified Supplies International, of which he is president.

CSO: 3298/824

ST JOHN DISCUSSES TRINIDAD LICENSING FOR BARBADOS PRODUCTS

Bridgetown THE NATION in English 15 Jul 83 p 1

[Text]

NEARLY \$54 million worth in licences have been issued to Barbadian manufacturers by Trinidad since the licensing system was instituted, Minister of Trade, Mr. Bernard St. John, said yesterday.

That figure, he added, represented nearly half the amount of trade that Barbados did with Trinidad annually.

The fact that licences had been issued, St. John explained, did not mean that the importers would immediately order the goods.

Commenting on complaints by Barbadian manufacturers about the slow issuing of licences, St. John conceded that they were not being issued as fast as the Barbados Government would like.

But he said he was satisfied that great efforts were being made to speed up the backlog of applications for licences.

St. John explained that the Export Promotion Corporation (EPC) had a permanent representative in Trinidad monitoring the system of licensing.

Any difficulty which arose that this representative could not deal with, would receive the personal attention of the Barbados non-resident High Commissioner to Trinidad, Mr. Lonnie Taylor,

who is also permanent secretary in the Ministry of Trade.

St. John said that machinery had been set up to deal with matters relating to the system on a bilateral basis.

He said that a list of items relating to the system, had been given to his ministry, and these were thoroughly dealt with in Trinidad for three days last week by his permanent secretary.

Asked about some applications being delayed, sometimes for more detailed information by Trinidad, which was apparently sticking to the letter of licensing, although the applications had been authenticated by the Barbados Ministry of Trade, St. John said he was not aware of this situation.

But if specific cases were brought to his attention, he would have them fully investigated.

The Barbados Government, St. John said, would like to see Trinidad remove the licensing system. He added that Trinidad was afraid of illegal importation.

He said: "In the non-garment trade, licences do flow faster than in the garment trade area; and this was because Trinidad was afraid of illegal importation."

St. John said that there were some Trinidad goods which were subject to licences from Barbados; but there was a greater flow of goods from Barbados to Trinidad which required licences.

However, he pointed out that the whole procedure relating to CARICOM trade, arising out of the Mini-summit agreement in Barbados earlier this year, will be reviewed in September.

CSO: 3298/824

GRENADIAN URGES SELF-RELIANCE ON CARIBBEAN UNIONISTS

Bridgetown SUNDAY ADVOCATE in English 10 Jul 83 p 3

[Text] KINGSTOWN, St. Vincent, Saturday, (CANA)--More than 30 trade unionists from 15 English-speaking Caribbean countries have ended the annual two-week seminar of the Caribbean Institute for Social Formation (CARISFORM) here with a call for a return to "pluralistic respect" in the region.

Co-Director of the seminar, Grenadian Stanley Cyrus, told the closing ceremony that one of the most serious problem facing the Caribbean today was "intellectual deference."

He said the people of the Caribbean had resigned themselves to ideological issues.

Mr. Cyrus, founder of the Progressive Labour and General Workers' Union of Grenada (PGWUG), declared "our people in the English speaking Caribbean have resigned from thinking."

"They permit leaders emanating from seven years outside of the Caribbean and in universities abroad to return to these shores and impose their thoughts and ideas, and we of course resign ourselves and accept this."

Mr. Cyrus told the participants that upon their return to their respective territories, they should continue to follow up what they learnt at the seminar and to pass it on to others, "so that this spirit of deference which has caused an end to the pluralistic respect that we used to have over the years would return to our shores."

The seminar analysed the history of the Caribbean, studied the special characteristics of each island, and discussed the development of the labour movement in the region. It was sponsored by the Latin American Confederation of Workers (CLAT).

CSO: 3298/824

CARIBBEAN STATES MOVE TO BOOST EARNINGS THROUGH AGRICULTURE

Bridgetown BARBADOS ADVOCATE in English 11 Jul 83 p 7

[Text]

Lemon grass and hot peppers have joined a priority list as Caribbean countries step up efforts to gain vital foreign exchange from non-traditional exports.

Lemon grass oil has been identified as a potential export for Antigua and Barbuda, the state being one of the few in the region producing the plant. The variety grown there is of high quality, according to the international trade forum magazine.

"...The export prospects appear favourable, as demand on the world market is high and the oil has a wide variety of end-users, including such items as perfumes and insect repellants," the magazine said.

Antigua's Ministry of Agriculture is investigating the possibilities for developing lemon grass oil for export and under the Ministry of Agriculture, harvesting trials will be conducted to determine the optimum picking times, and experiments on processing the essential oil will be carried out.

"When these trials are completed, and if results demonstrate that the operation is economically viable, the ministry will look into the possibilities of commercial produc-

tion," the magazine said.

Several of these islands are developing hot pepper (capsicum) production both as a spice export and as an import substitute.

Hot pepper sauce — a major end-use of these peppers — is consumed in considerable quantities in several Caribbean countries.

A few sauce processing plants operate locally, but they must often import their raw materials. Increased domestic hot pepper production could reduce such imports, and some of the sauce could in turn be exported.

Furthermore, several of the islands have been approached by foreign buyers to supply raw hot peppers on a regular basis. Following up recommendations at the seminar in Grenada, St. Lucia and Antigua have started research and development work on hot pepper production.

In St. Lucia, where diversification away from such traditional crops as bananas is aimed at putting exports on a more stable footing, the Ministry of Agriculture's work on hot peppers is one of several activities to promote spices.

The ministry's research station has set up a 1¼ acre hot pepper plot to determine the technical and commercial feasibility of

exporting dried peppers.

Pungency tests on the samples have been favourable, and if the labour and material costs prove to be low enough to make the operation profitable, the ministry will encourage farmers to grow the plant on a commercial scale and will provide them with seeds.

A U.S. food-processing firm has already expressed interest in purchasing large quantities of dried peppers on a continuous basis and possibly investing in the local production operations.

Expanded hot pepper output could also serve as an import substitute in St. Lucia. One of the local spice grinding and packing firms, for example, currently must import large quantities of dried hot peppers (as well as other spice materials) to produce its curry powder, which it sells on both the domestic and export markets.

If it could buy hot peppers locally at competitive prices, the firm may consider expanding its product range to include hot pepper sauce, with some of it for export.

Under Antigua's new five-year plan, hot peppers are projected to become one of the country's top five agricultural products.

The ministry is now conducting research on the technical aspects of hot pepper production, such as spacing trials for plants and experiments with different fertilizers.

A device has recently been developed to prevent pickers' hands and arms from being "burned" on the plant during harvesting, which should overcome a major obstacle to hot pepper cultivation in the past.

Although Antigua's total hot pepper production is now only about two acres, the government hopes to increase this 100 acres in

the next several years, with about 60 per cent of this on small holdings.

To encourage increased pepper cultivation, the ministry is multiplying seed and distributing it to farmers.

Some of this planting material was obtained from St. Lucia as a result of contacts at the Grenada seminar.

The ministry is working with the Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute (CARDI) to help promote hot pepper cultivation among small farmers through posters and pamphlets.

In addition to potential sales of the peppers to hot sauce processing firms, in Antigua, export possibilities have been identified.

For example, a Canadian buyer is interested in purchasing 10 000 pounds every two weeks when supplies are expanded.

A key recommendation arising from the CDBs spice support activities has been for the Ministries of Agriculture in the region to develop a larger supply of spice plant material for distribution to small farmers.

The lack of spice plants and seeds has been one of the principal constraints to expansion in the past. Therefore an initial step that several of the islands are taking in their spice programmes is to propagate plant material, as mentioned in several of the cases discussed above.

In St. Lucia, for example, in addition to propagating hot pepper plants, the Ministry of Agriculture's agronomist and spice expert started the country's first spice nursery at the main agricultural research station after her return from the Grenada spice seminar.

In a covered nursery area formerly used for sweet potatoes, she has supervised the propagation of five of the

government's priority spice crops — nutmegs, cloves, pimento, cinnamon and black pepper.

Some of the plant material has been obtained from local farmers, but much has come from other islands in the region.

For example, as pimento is not yet grown in St. Lucia, she got those seeds from Grenada's agricultural station and is producing 1 000 plants for distribution to farmers. She also got plant materials for cloves, nutmegs and black pepper from Grenada.

To encourage farmers to go into spices, she is working with the ministry's agricultural extension service.

Through the district extension officers, she collected data from farmers on the types of spices they currently produce and the new varieties they would like to plant.

At the same time she gathered samples of different spices grown locally, for analysis as well as for use as propagating material. She is now organising a series of meetings to inform farmers about the aims of the ministry's spice development programme and the techniques for cultivating spices. The extension agents are responsible for distributing the plant material to farmers, who can purchase it at a subsidised price.

Only a very limited quantity of the spices and essential oils produced in these islands goes into locally manufactured end-products. The usual pattern is for the raw spices and spice oils to be exported.

Increasing the added value in these products, as in the case of hot peppers above, is one of the long-term aims in most of these national spice development programmes.

CARIBBEAN CARGO AIRLINE ADVANCES, WEIGHS SERVICE TO BELIZE

Bridgetown THE NATION in English 13 Jul 83 p 19

[Text]

CARICARGO — the joint venture freight airline — wants to have a service from Miami and Jamaica into Belize.

This matter was brought up with the Belize delegation last week by Barbados' Minister of Trade, Bernard St. John, at the Fourth Heads of Government Conference in Port-of-Spain, Trinidad.

It was done at the request of the Board of Directors of CARICARGO, which is jointly owned by the Governments of Trinidad and Barbados.

St. John reported in an interview after the conference, that both the Prime Minister of Belize, George Price, and his minister in charge of CARICOM affairs, would welcome CARICARGO coming to their country.

St. John, who dealt with air transportation and trade matters at the Trinidad Summit, said that everybody now understood very clearly the limitations of pursuing the concept of having one single airline doing all the services in the region.

He said that what they were now likely to see would be, probably, three or four airlines in operation in the area.

An interesting development had taken place with regard to CARICARGO, St. John said. All of the Governments seemed now to appreciate that it was necessary to have a freight airline to do business with inland-territories, he said.

He described CARICARGO as a "wonderful instrument", owned by the Governments of Trinidad and Barbados. And from the very beginning, St. John said, it was stated that any Government in the Caribbean would be welcome as shareholders.

In this way, he said, they started off in freight transportation on a much better basis than with passenger transportation, since there could be no difficulty in trying to use the freight airline as a multiple instrument for the purposes of carrying freight.

Asked about the participation of regional Governments in CARICARGO, St. John said that before they came to the conference, there was interest from St. Vincent and St. Lucia.

He pointed out that the Government of Antigua and Barbuda, as part of its bilateral arrangement, had pursued the matter with Trinidad.

Antigua, St. John said, was perfectly welcome as far as Barbados was concerned, and he noted that Jamaica had also expressed an interest.

Further asked whether this meant that the idea of a single regional air carrier was out, St. John said.

"I think that this has been out for about ten years. I think that the Press has been pursuing that, not BWIA."

He added: "As far as I understood it all along, now that the bilaterals that were signed with Barbados, it was always understood within the Eastern Caribbean that what was far more worthwhile pursuing, was trying to get the Governments of the Eastern Caribbean to ask countries to designate BWIA as their carrier, notwithstanding the fact that they did not own and control it."

Barbados led the way with that, St. John said, adding that the whole Eastern Caribbean had now committed itself.

St. John said: "We now have an inter-governmental agreement which recognises that any Government in the area can designate any country's carrier as its national carrier."

ADAMS PROPOSES STAMP DUTY AS ONE WAY TO ASSIST CARICOM

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 5 Jul 83 pp 1, 16

[Text]

CARICOM heads of Government have been urged to strengthen the Secretariat. The Prime Minister of Barbados, Mr Tom Adams, in his statement at the Fourth Caricom Summit, reiterated a plea he made earlier last month that an independent source of income be allowed the Secretariat to remove the dependence on direct subvention from individual governments.

Mr Adams said a financially limited Secretariat would not be able to function as efficiently as it should.

He suggested a small stamp duty or other levy on imports which would have the effect of making those most able to support Caricom carry the financial burden of running it.

In his ten-minutes statement, Mr Adams expressed deep concern over the slowdown in trade, international relations, integration and the functioning of Caribbean Multilateral Clearing Facility.

Following is part of Mr Adams' statement at the Summit yesterday:

"I had the privilege of presiding over that Finance Ministers' meeting in Barbados. I believe we were able, after some intensive reflection, to make proposals which can lead to the revival of the Caribbean multilateral Clearing Facility under conditions more appropriate to the realities of the expanding Caricom trade situation. I am, therefore, looking forward to our deliberations on these new proposals since a functioning Caribbean Multilateral Clearing Facility is one of the greatest benefits that we can give to manufacturing and employment within our economies.

WORTH REPEATING

"I hope that the lessons of the last few months have been well and truly learnt. For in the unilateral two-tier devaluation, and the institutions of import licensing

regimes all our countries have suffered in some measure. We, the leaders of the Region, must therefore address ourselves to ensuring that Article 43 of the Annex to the Treaty of Chaguaramas is applied in such a way as to maintain relatively stable exchange rates within the Community.

"Similarly we must reach the stage where import restrictions are governed precisely by the criteria laid down in Article 28 of the same Annex. We have learnt that our economies are becoming so intertwined that our policies must move outside the confines of our respective national boundaries.

"It was this understanding that accounted for the agreements reached in May in Bridgetown and appreciation of it must lead us to strengthen the Secretariat that warning signs of dangerous trends can be relayed to Member States at an early stage.

"Less than a month ago, I suggested a means of giving the Secretariat an independent source of income to allow it to function without dependence on direct subvention from individual Government. I believe my proposal is worth repeating here, since a financially limited Secretariat will not be able to function as efficiently as it should. A very small stamp duty or other levy on imports which would have the effect of making those most able to support Caricom carry the financial burden of running it, would be one means.

"My proposal is in keeping with the strongly held view of the Government of Barbados that regional integration remains the most viable strategy for the maximum development of all the States of the Region. I shall, therefore, support every effort designed to promote greater market integration, greater integration of production, and greater functional cooperation in all practicable areas

including external trade and economic relations and policies. For these policies a technically competent Secretariat is indispensable. I hope, therefore, our meeting will give some consideration to this idea of strengthening the Secretariat.

"Mr. Chairman, the international role of English-speaking Caribbean States has changed significantly during the last ten years. When the Treaty of Chaguaramas was signed ten years ago, only four of the present members of Caricom had achieved independence. Today, when St. Kitts-Nevis is on the verge of officially joining the international family of independent countries and Caricom is being strengthened by the full membership of the Commonwealth of the Bahamas, we represent a far from negligible segment of the international community.

TWIST AND TURNS

"But I am certain that it is not only a matter of numbers, for the quality of the contribution which we have made, individually and collectively, to international discussion and action over the last decade cannot be denied.

"The Member States of Caricom have been forced to cope as independent States with the twist and turns of politics in the wider international community. Efforts continue to be made, often in trying circumstances, to enhance the quality of international relations, inside and outside the region, with the ultimate aim of improving the livelihood and prospects of the peoples we represent.

"It is true that with the entry of what is grandly called ideological

pluralism we can no longer hope to achieve one of the goals of the founders of Caricom, which is to hammer out a coordinated foreign policy. It does not take a Jeremiah to observe that such a common foreign policy is at the moment unlikely to achievement on all, or indeed most issues. This in itself should, however, not fill us with dismay, for the contemporary experience of nation-States moving towards integration seems to suggest that integration movements may survive when their members are not in full agreement on foreign policy issues and goals — even indeed when they have different views on human and political rights — as long as the disagreements play a secondary role to the primary factors of functional co-operation and co-ordination of economic efforts. The integration movement will be more limited, but rewarding nonetheless, and if in the short term this is all at which we can aim, then so be it.

"In conclusion I would say that I have a very high opinion of West Indians — even still in the cricket field. I think we are one of the most remarkable and able small national groups on the face of the earth. We have the resources both human and natural to go forward. Let us, therefore, in our deliberation over the next few days confront the issues head-on and take the decisions that will see the movement safely and happily into the next decade.

"Finally, let me close by thanking the Government of Trinidad and Tobago for this exceptional opening ceremony and for the splendid arrangements that have been made for our comfort during the next four days."

CARICOM SYMPOSIUM TOLD GUYANA MAY BE DROPPED FROM CMCF

Bridgetown BARBADOS ADVOCATE in English 20 Jul 83 p 1

[Text]

A senior Government official in Barbados has said that the likely outcome of one of the new arrangements to reactivate the CARICOM Multilateral Clearing Facility (CMCF) will be the eventual suspension of Guyana from the facility unless that country can arrange appropriate borrowing in the interim.

Director of Finance and Planning Mr. Steve Emtage told this to a symposium on CARICOM, which continued at the Dover Convention Centre yesterday.

The CMCF had been suspended recently and at the Heads of Government

meeting in Port of Spain earlier this month steps were taken to reactivate it.

In explaining these measures Mr. Emtage said that limited funds will be injected to reduce the debt and credit of the major debtor and creditor respectively.

He said too that all oil payments whose partial inclusion had been a cause of the rapid growth of credit to Guyana will pass through the facility and that for the future, strict debtor limits will be imposed with no deferrals limited.

According to him: "The likely outcome of this new arrangement will be the eventual suspension of

Guyana from the Facility (unless that country can arrange appropriate borrowing in the interim) and its continuation among the other four Central Banks."

The symposium on 10 years of Caricom integration, opened last Sunday and will run until July 22. Mr. Emtage spoke on the role of financial cooperation in the integration process.

He gave a background to the problems leading up to the suspension of the facility in March when a credit limit of US\$100 million was reached.

"Common sense indicates that a payment mechanism such as the CMCF or the European

Payments Union (EPU) cannot survive if one of its participants is a persistent debtor and unable to settle any part of its outstanding indebtedness," he said.

Mr. Emtage cited the case of the EPU in its early days when Belgium was the main creditor and Germany the major debtor, followed subsequently by Austria and Greece.

"The EPU was only enabled to function in the face of these persistent intra-European debtor and creditor problems because of the injection of considerable financial assistance from the United States," he said.

CSO: 3298/824

GOVERNMENT DENIES PRODUCTS ARE RELABELED FOR EXPORT

Bridgetown BARBADOS ADVOCATE in English 14 Jul 83 p 3

[Text]

ST JOHN'S, Antigua, Wednesday, (CANA) — The Antigua and Barbuda Government has denied allegations that the country was buying household appliances and garments outside the region, relabelling them as if they were made here, and exporting them to Trinidad and Tobago.

"The manufacturers in Antigua have reassured the Government here that in fact this is not true that they have the capacity, the productivity and the locals have skills to assemble these appliances to sew these garments," said Acting Prime Minister Lester Bird.

Bird also invited the Trinidad and Tobago Government and several Caribbean institutions to send a mission to investigate the country's manufacturing capability.

Trinidad and Tobago manufacturers have charged that Antigua and Barbuda was breaking the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) rules of origin, reselling its imports with new labels.

Goods made and sold in the community are subject to duty-free

treatment. In some cases to have easier access to markets than goods imported from third countries.

Mr. Bird said that despite the assurances from manufacturers here, his country wanted to demonstrate that it was dealing with the issue in a straightforward manner.

"... We intend to ask the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) Secretariat, the Caribbean Community and any other interested independent body in the region to look at the productive capacity in these factories — to look at the skills of the people involved and to satisfy themselves that we have the competence and the capability to do so," Bird declared.

The Deputy Prime Minister was speaking at a press conference which dealt with Antigua and Barbuda's participation in last week's CARICOM Heads of Government Conference in Port-of-Spain, Trinidad.

He said that a study is now underway to identify how best Caribbean states can utilise the region's oil refining

capacity.

Mr. Bird stated that the Heads of Government agreed to a proposal to rationalise the refining capacity within the region, and that efforts to that end should be completed within the next 18 months.

Antigua and Barbuda, Trinidad and Tobago and Jamaica, are three CARICOM states with refining capacity.

Mr. Bird said that the summit has provided a way forward for the 13-member regional grouping.

"That way incorporates a deepening of the economic integration process and an appreciation that while member states have, and will continue to have, political differences, these differences need not destroy CARICOM," Mr. Bird said.

The Acting Prime Minister added, "indeed, these differences can only be solved within CARICOM. Their solution does not rest in expulsion of member states or in acrimonious public debate, but in reasoned debate within the councils of CARICOM itself."

BRIEFS

ECONOMIC GROWTH--ST JOHN'S, Antigua, Wednesday, (AP)--Antigua and Barbuda has managed to maintain continued economic growth while controlling its cost of living and unemployment rate, the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) report said. In its report for 1982, the CDB said Antigua and Barbuda's economy grew by 4.6 per cent last year. This was the sixth consecutive year in which the country had experienced real economic growth, the banks figures revealed. The CDB also reported that the inflation rate in Antigua and Barbuda dropped by seven per cent in 1982 compared with 1981, from 11.5 per cent to 4.5 per cent. Unemployment, meanwhile, remained unchanged at 20 per cent, the report said. [Bridgetown BARBADOS ADVOCATE in English 14 Jul 83 p 3]

BANK STRIKE--ST. JOHN'S, July 28--An estimated 98 percent of the unionised workers of the Antigua branch of the Royal Bank of Canada, are currently on strike in protest against the suspension of a colleague. Danzlear Dublin, a shop steward of the Antigua Workers Union, (AWU), bargaining agent of the staffers, was suspended on grounds of customer complaints against him, and for allegedly taking two days leave without management's consent. During subsequent meetings with the bank the AWU contended that Dublin was suspended on false allegations and demanded his reinstatement. The bank has however replied by pointing out that the matter was already before its headquarters in Canada. [Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 29 Jul 83 p 29]

CSO: 3298/825

SPECULATION ON COMING CHANGES IN DIPLOMATIC ASSIGNMENTS

Bridgetown SUNDAY SUN in English 17 Jul 83 p 32

[Article by Patrick Ward]

[Text]

BARBADOS is expected to open a permanent diplomatic mission in Trinidad and Tobago shortly, resulting in a major reshuffle of the overseas diplomatic corps.

Some of the people expected to be affected by this new mission which is yet to be announced are Carlisle Carter, Randolph Field, Raul Harris, Luther Johnson and Peter Laurie.

Official sources hinted that the Toronto-based consul-general, Randolph Field, would be sent to New York in the same capacity and Peter Laurie would

take over from Charlie Skeete who recently resigned his ambassadorial post to take up a major position with the Inter-American Development Bank. Laurie is currently based in Caracas, Venezuela.

High Commissioner in New York, Carlisle Carter, is expected to return home to become Deputy Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, while Raul Harris will be going to Trinidad to be Barbados' permanent High Commissioner there.

Carter, 44, was appointed High Commissioner in 1981, following the return of the then High Commissioner, Clyde Griffith, to Barbados. He was educated at Harrison College and served for some time as a foreign service officer in the Ministry of External Affairs. He is married and has two children.

CSO: 3298/827

COLOMBIAN AMBASSADOR NOTES DESIRE FOR CLOSER TIES

Bridgetown BARBADOS ADVOCATE in English 22 Jul 83 p 9

[Text]

Colombian Ambassador to Barbados Mr. Carlos Ayerbe said that his country is very interested in having closer bilateral agreements with Barbados.

Mr. Ayerbe said that he has already had discussions with the Barbados Central Bank about a joint venture in leather work between Colombia and Barbados.

If the project gets off the ground, and the Colombian Ambassador thinks it will, Colombia will provide the leather and technology while Barbados' responsibility will be to provide the plant, labour and marketing of the finished products.

Mr. Ayerbe said that a potential market is in the region of Europe, Canada and America.

He also disclosed that Colombia is looking at the possibility of having a cargo aircraft flying between there Barbados and Trinidad.

According to Mr. Ayerbe, expectations are that Colombia could bring agricultural products construction materials and light industrial machinery to the region

while in the case of Barbados, this country could sell Colombia, electronic components, roofing materials, rum and solar heaters.

The diplomat was talking to the Barbados Advocate at a reception held at his home at South Ridge, Christ Church, held in commemoration of his country's 173rd year of Independence.

He said that his country and Barbados are continuing to have "good relations" and that he was committed to strengthening the existing ties.

Colombia initiated an ambassadorship here in 1981. The Embassy was then located at Inch Marlow but since a few weeks ago has been relocated at Carrusel, South Ridge.

Mr. Ayerbe, who has always been his country's Ambassador to Barbados, recently added to his duties when he presented his credentials to the Antigua Government to be Colombia's Ambassador to Antigua. The only other Colombian Embassy in the region is in Trinidad.

OPPOSITION DLP PREDICTS VICTORY IN NEXT ELECTION

Taitt at Party Rally

Bridgetown THE NATION in English 11 Jul 83 p 1

[Text]

SO long as the opposition Democratic Labour Party (DLP) learns from its errors, president Branford Taitt predicts that they will win the next general elections.

Taitt made this prediction while speaking at the Second Northern Zone Convention of his party at the Alexandra School, in St. Peter, yesterday.

He said that although there had been some questions asked, Barbados still had a long tradition of democratic government and it was necessary to always have an alternative group of people to carry on the Government to the benefit of the masses.

He said that it was not the intention of the DLP to remain in opposition, but rather it was

their duty to be ready at anytime to offer themselves as the next administration.

Taitt told the gathering: "We cannot allow ourselves to fall into a state of armchair politics.

We have got to be committed.

"We will not have a candidate who does not have that determined commitment to the people."

"They will have to see all the people in the constituency and say 'I offer myself as a worthy candidate for this constituency'," Taitt added.

Taitt charged that the present Barbados Labour Party (BLP) Government was committed to a specific minority of persons who were reaping benefits to the detriment of the majority.

BLP Constituencies Scheme

Bridgetown THE NATION in English 13 Jul 83 p 19

[Text]

OPPOSITION parliamentarian, Branford Taitt, yesterday charged that the ruling Barbados Labour Party (BLP) was planning to increase the number of constituencies for the next general elections.

Taitt made the charge during a party convention at Alexandra School, in St. Peter, yesterday morning, at the same time stating that his party was committed to forcing the Government to bring into being the proposed Boundaries Commission.

He said: "Rumours that the Barbados Labour Party plans to increase the seats for the next elections are not just rumours."

He charged that the Government was now seriously considering changing boundaries

in Barbados again, adding that they (the Opposition) had means of getting information.

The fact that provision has been made for the setting up of a Boundaries Commission, Taitt said, makes it wrong for anyone other than that particular body to change boundaries.

"To do that after provision has been made for a Boundaries Commission, is to fly in the faces of the

people," Taitt added.

In a wide-ranging address, the DLP president, in apparent reference to the recently uncovered pornography racket, claimed that efforts were being made to hinder the investigations of the police.

Taitt said that the standard of living had to do with what was happening to young people in Barbados, adding that some persons in "high places" were using these young people.

He charged, too, that the incidence of drug abuse in Barbados was high, and getting

higher, and pledged his party's support to the Royal Barbados Police Force.

He concluded that the trade union movement was being undermined; the National Union of Public Workers (NUPW) was being treated with contempt; nurses were having a rough time; and workers were being laid off without the unions being consulted.

"You are here (attending this convention) because you have a commitment to a better way of life for all persons in Barbados. We are the party of the people," Taitt ended.

DLP Candidates

Bridgetown THE NATION in English 13 Jul 83 p 19

[Text]

THE Opposition Democratic Labour Party (DLP) will be fielding candidates for all 27 constituencies in Barbados for the next general election.

Of these, 17 candidates have already been chosen, and president of the party, Branford Taitt, on Sunday stated that the other ten could be "selected at a moment's notice".

These statements were made at the Alexandra School recently, during the first session of the second annual Northern Zone

Convention.

While delivering the feature address, Taitt, a Member of Parliament, told the gathering that there had been some questions raised as to the selection of candidates for the next general election, constitutionally due in 1986.

He said: "The DLP has been over the last ten months examining in great detail and with a high degree of purpose, who will represent this party at the next general election."

CSO: 3298/826

ADAMS NOTES DISSATISFACTION WITH MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT

Bridgetown BARBADOS ADVOCATE in English 27 Jul 83 p 1

[Text]

Prime Minister and Minister of Finance Mr. Tom Adams is not satisfied with the quality of supervision at the higher levels in the Ministry of Transport and Works.

He said part of this was due to the fact that Government could not fill all the positions of engineering and architecture that were required.

He added that it was also due to demoralisation after many years of talks from members of the public and politicians (about the attitude of MTW workers). Mr. Adams felt some of this criticism was not justified.

The Prime Minister's comments came in the House of Assembly yesterday where road-building and improvement and related matters such as drainage came under scrutiny.

Mr. Adams, pointing out that he did not want to be unnecessarily critical of MTW, said there were 2 300 workers in that Ministry but only 400 worked in new construction.

Mr. Adams said that Government had tried to "ride a four-wheel chariot in respect of road repairs."

He told the House that Government was un-

dertaking its first major highway building programme in 300 years.

He said highways will be built in areas where they have been seen before. The parts of the highway system that need to be contained at the level necessary to accommodate heavy traffic will also be improved.

Mr. Adams named Blower's Bridge, in St. Thomas; Bridge Road, St. Michael; and Highways 5 and 6 in Christ Church; as some of the areas to come under this major improvement.

The Prime Minister said that Government had to think about giving paved roads to the few remaining parts of Barbados without these, mainly country tenancies.

He told the House that Government's plans for improving the infrastructure of tenancies would come to full fruition.

Mr. Adams deplored "looking at the road system in Barbados through the wrong end of the telescope".

He said that some of the worst potholes in Barbados were not to be found in Parris Gap, Westbury Road, but in Atlantic Shores, in Christ Church.

BARBADOS GETTING QUICK \$20 MILLION FROM CARIBBEAN FACILITY

Bridgetown THE NATION in English 15 Jul 83 p 1

[Article by Hartley Henry]

[Text]

BARBADOS stands to receive US\$20 million from the problem plagued CARICOM Multilateral Clearing Facility (CMCF) immediately. This, according to Prime Minister Tom Adams, is as a result of a secret agreement reached at the just concluded CARICOM Heads of Government Summit in Trinidad.

Adams told St. Michael constituents last Wednesday, night at the Barbados Labour Party Headquarters, that it was agreed that Barbados should get US\$10 million of the money

owed to it under the facility, and also, a similar sum to compensate for what he termed as the unreasonable credit "we have been paying over the years".

He was referring to the previous trade arrangement where Guyana was allowed to purchase oil from Trinidad — through the Facility — while Barbados was not.

He said: "The Trinidadians showed insensitivity. How they could allow themselves to give Guyana oil at Barbados' expense, and then not allow Barbados to have oil on the

same terms, I regard that as an insensitive matter."

He explained that although Barbados had not got the full \$50 million owed it, which is immediately due, a secret agreement had been entered into, stipulating that Barbados should get over US\$10 million in cash, and a similar sum in compensation.

A proper rate of interest for Barbados, in its CARICOM financial transactions, was also agreed on.

Adams thought Guyana was the "primary culprit", in causing abuse of the facility.

CSO: 3298/827

WORKERS UNION CONCERNED OVER JOBS, ASSAILS BLACKMAN

Alarm at Termination Rate

Bridgetown BARBADOS ADVOCATE in English 11 Jul 83 p 2

[Text]

The Barbados Workers' Union has expressed "alarm and concern" over the growing rate at which workers here have been terminated from their jobs.

BWU General Secretary, Mr. Frank Walcott said yesterday that there is a general feeling that those who have been dismissed can find solace in the social security benefits of severance payment or even unemployment benefits.

"However, we would like to point out that, although we subscribe to severance payment and unemployment benefits, we do not regard them as substitutes for employment," said Mr. Walcott.

"Employment must be regarded, in the first instance as a worker's right to his existence," he stressed.

In recent months, both the public and private sector have laid off or severed workers. They have blamed the economic downturn mainly as the prime reason.

Mr. Walcott said that the Union is not happy about the methods which have been used by management in all of the undertakings. In addition, he said the Union viewed with suspicion some of the companies that have emerged in Barbados and where especially, in some instances, there is an identification, in some way, with some of those that have collapsed.

"We have reached the stage where commercial leaders must be willing to set examples and the kind of public behaviour that inspire those who work with them in building up their enterprises," said Mr. Walcott.

He said the Union forworned upon the concept that workers are pawns in a game of chance and all you need do is to use them at will.

Mr. Walcott said that unemployment creates suffering, and he identified housing as one area needs immediate attention.

"We are aware," he said, "that the poor will suffer greatest because they are the ones with the biggest families and who will be therefore be exposed to all of the vagaries of nature."

Challenge to Blackman

Bridgetown BARBADOS ADVOCATE in English 23 Jul 83 p 2

[Text]

The Barbados Workers' Union (BWU) has challenged the Governor of the Central Bank to show how wage increases have led to recent lay-offs and redundancies in Barbados.

Central Bank Governor Dr. Courtney Blackman last Thursday said that failure by the trade unions "to pursue a strategy of job protection rather than wage maximisation" as recommended by the Central Bank was one of the reasons for the current unemployment situation in the country.

The BWU, in reaction yesterday, denied that increased wages had caused the unemployment figure which now stands at 14.7 per cent and demanded that

Dr. Blackman show how recent lay-offs and redundancies in the garment industry, the hotel sector, the Barbados Marketing Corporation and other areas had been caused by such wages.

Said the BWU: "The days of poverty for the masses and a good life for the minority are over. In the same manner that an employer is expected to make a profit, it is a fundamental right of a worker to have remunerative wages and salaries that provide a decent standard of living."

The BWU said that it would not stand by and see a one-sided society where the unevenness of salaries and wages would lead to a situation where a

minority will receive decent wages and salaries and the majority will be left to eke out an existence and live in substandard housing.

The Union said: "Life in Barbados is too easy for some of the bureaucrats. We find that the Central Bank attempts to throw a smoke screen over the problems in the economic life of Barbados by making statements which seek to undermine the contributions that trade unions make in this society."

"The BWU reiterates that the failures in the economy are used as occasions to unearth scapegoats rather than stimulating remedies for the problems which arise."

Criticism in Parliament

Bridgetown THE NATION in English 28 Jul 83 p 1

[Text]

SENATOR Evelyn Greaves said yesterday that it was "grossly unfair" for Governor of the Central Bank, Dr. Courtney Blackman, to attribute some wage negotiations by the Barbados Workers' Union to contributing in some way to the unemployment situation in this country.

Greaves, who is also a deputy general secretary of the BWU, said that the union had contained its wages requests to a great degree with the Government and also in the hotel industry — all in the national interest.

If they had become reasonable, he said, it was in the national interest first.

"But now we are getting the accusation levelled at the union about big increases. This is grossly unfair," he said.

Greaves also expressed extreme disappointment at the "complete mismanagement" on the part of the Central Bank of the Caribbean Multilateral Clearing Facility (MCF), the result of which had placed the Barbadian economy in a very dif-

ficult position.

He said that the Governor of the Central Bank had expressed a point of view that the increases which the union had negotiated over the last year had contributed to a large extent, to the economic difficulties in Barbados.

Greaves said: "The governor of the Central Bank in making such statements, ought to be in a position to state very clearly, and identify any particular area where wages negotiated on behalf of workers, have caused the demise of any particular operations."

He added that the 73 workers whose services had been terminated by the Barbados Marketing Corporation (BMC) were not as a result of any wage negotiations by the BWU.

Greaves was speaking on a Bill to grant an additional sum of money out of the Consolidated Fund and appropriate the same for the service of the island for the financial year ended March 31, 1983.

Bridgetown THE NATION in English 28 Jul 83 p 14

[Text]

OVER the next three years, Barbados will witness a considerable expansion in house construction, more jobs will be created and there will be an improvement in the export capacity of the island's industrial sector.

This promise was made on Tuesday by Prime Minister Tom Adams in the House of Assembly during his introduction of a resolution seeking Parliamentary approval for Government to draw \$14 million from the Consolidated Fund.

Adams explained that the sum of money was required to establish the Industrial Credit Fund and the Housing Credit Fund.

"Basically, the move is representative of the fact we are now resuming expansionary policies of development after the recessionary period over the past few years," he stated.

The Prime Minister said the setting up of the Credit Fund would lead to the creation of more jobs and improve the island's export capacity, and the Housing Credit Fund would lead to a considerable improvement in the house building figures before the end of 1986.

He declared he wished to thank the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) for its assistance in helping Barbados to obtain the loans to set up the funds and also President Ronald Reagan "who took a personal interest in the projects".

CSO: 3298/827

BRIEFS

NEW CO-OP LAWS--A NEW set of cooperative laws should be ready by next year. According to a Minister of Agriculture, Dr. Richard Cheltenham, the new act was at a fairly advanced stage and was most likely to be one of the matters that would be alluded to in the Throne Speech at the new opening of Parliament. The act is now being reconsidered by officials at the ministry after a perusal by the Attorney General's Office. The act will contain a sweeping set of recommendations aimed at improving the cooperative movement in Barbados. In a recent address to the cooperatives at Co-operators Day celebrations, president of the Public Workers Buying Club Co-operative Savings Society, Mr. Harcourt Lewis, had said that a revision of the laws was needed. He also said that Government should be approached, as well as regional or international institutions for funding to carry out an indepth study on ways to further develop the movement. [Bridgetown THE NATION in English 15 Jul 83 p 28]

TOURISM INCREASE--For the first six months of this year, tourist arrivals in Barbados have shown an increase of 5.9 per cent over the same period last year. Up to the end of June these arrivals numbered 168 653 as compared to 159 289 for June 1982. For June this year tourist arrivals were around 21 765 as compared with 16 730 for June 1982. This shows a 30.2 per cent increase. The United States market was most vibrant for Barbados' tourism. It showed an 86.4 per cent growth for June this year as compared with last year. Arrivals from the United States this year were 8 791. The Canadian market was not as vibrant as before, but picked up slightly. Arrivals from Canada were 1 689. This showed a 15.4 per cent increase as compared with June last year. Trinidad continues to be the main contributor in the Caricom region. Total arrivals were 3 121 or a 24.6 per cent increase over last year. [Bridgetown BARBADOS ADVOCATE in English 19 Jul 83 p 1]

SUGAR SUPPORT PLAN--COMING on the heels of the relatively poor 1983 sugar crop in Barbados, the Ministry of Agriculture is considering providing price support for the industry that would cost between \$6 million and \$7 million. Disclosing this proposed plan, Minister of Agriculture, Food and Consumer Affairs, Dr. Richard Cheltenham said that the option now under consideration in his ministry would mean a link between price support and the planting of cane. Cheltenham made his comments in an interview at his hotel in New York where he is now winding up a month-long tour of the United States as guest of the United States Information Agency. He said that when the price support scheme was developed, it was never conceived as "a prop" which would run

indefinitely. It was developed for two years, he explained. Warning that the sugar industry should not be over-burdened with debt, Cheltenham said that if that happened, the industry which has to repay 50 percent of the price support it receives, would "just collapse under the weight of its own debt". [Bridgetown SUNDAY SUN in English 3 Jul 83 p 32]

CSO: 3298/828

CONTINUING RISE IN PUBLIC SECTOR SPENDING DISCUSSED

Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 24 Jul 83 p 42

[Text] Public sector spending is continuing to rise despite the government's commitment to the IMF and its vigorous efforts to check spending and thus reduce the public-sector deficit. For the first half of this year, expenditures totaled 3.99 trillion cruzeiros, for a nominal growth rate of 138.4 percent and a real rate of 4.9 percent. Expenditures in June totaled 801.9 billion cruzeiros, for an increase of 170.1 percent in nominal terms and 18.8 percent in real terms over the same period last year.

The government machinery is showing a strong craving to spend despite the austerity measures already adopted, which range from cuts in salaries to cutting down on coffee breaks in some organizations. From May to June alone, while the country was already renegotiating a new agreement with the IMF and the question of government spending was most in evidence, public expenditures rose by 22.7 percent (up from 653.4 billion to 801.9 billion cruzeiros), while in the same period, Treasury receipts fell by 9.8 percent--collections totaled 902.9 billion cruzeiros in May, but fell to 814.6 billion in June. The Treasury's cash balance, which totaled 249.5 billion cruzeiros in May, was down to a scanty 12.7 billion in June.

Treasury receipts have lived up to the results forecast in the agreement with the IMF. For the first 6 months of the year, they totaled 4.43 trillion cruzeiros for a nominal increase of 148 percent. Considering an inflation rate of 127.2 percent for the full 12 months, the increase in real terms was 9.3 percent. It should be kept in mind, however, that this growth in real terms is not significant, since this year marked the start of income tax payments and refunds with monetary correction, with the result that legal entities, primarily in the financial sector, paid their taxes ahead of time.

Debts

For the first half of this year, the National Treasury recorded a cash balance on the order of 446.2 billion cruzeiros, all of which was transferred to the monetary budget to cover the Treasury's debts to the monetary authorities (the Central Bank and the Bank of Brazil). At the end of May, those debts officially totaled 580 billion cruzeiros, but sources in the Ministry of Finance claim that they now total over 700 billion cruzeiros. The monetary budget anticipates that

National Treasury: Financial Results
(in millions of cruzeiros)

Source: Central Bank of Brazil

Description	1982	1983	
	January-June	June	January-June
Receipts	1,785,276	814,690	4,436,377
Expenditures	1,673,696	801,917	3,990,128
Cash balance	111,580	12,773	446,249

2.4 trillion cruzeiros will be transferred from the fiscal budget to the monetary budget over the year as a whole. The IMF wanted those transfers to total 5 trillion cruzeiros, but it was apparently persuaded that that was impossible.

The IMF also complained considerably during the recent negotiations about public spending, but government experts point out that restraint in that sector is limited because of earmarked revenues, which go chiefly to the states and municipalities and a few programs. But they stress that personnel expenditures are voracious and need to be contained. The government is slow in divulging the overall scope of expenditures, however, and Mailson da Nobrega, secretary general of the Ministry of Finance, who is keeping track of spending, confesses that he knows "nothing at all" about the matter either.

Receipts should reach a minimum of 10.5 trillion cruzeiros this year, or more than double the 4.7 trillion cruzeiros collected last year. That is another commitment to the IMF, but the recent floods in the South are going to reduce collections--the secretary of the Federal Revenue Office still does not know exactly by how much. Experts at the Ministry of Finance recall that in Rio Grande do Sul and Parana, most of the flood damage affected agriculture, whose products are exempt from the IPI [manufactured goods tax] and therefore do not generate revenues for the Federal Treasury. The situation in Santa Catarina is different, because there it was industry that was harmed by the rains, meaning that IPI revenues will fall.

In the first half of this year, the tax generating the most revenue was again the total income tax at 2.4 trillion cruzeiros. The share of Treasury receipts provided by the income tax has risen from 43.5 percent in the first half of 1982 to 53.3 percent to date this year. This is due mainly to Decree No 1,967, under which legal entities are required to pay their IR [income tax] with monetary correction.

Several sectors paid in advance, following the example of the financial institutions, which contributed 35 percent of the corporation income tax this year, compared to 32 percent in the same period last year. For its part, the share contributed by retail trade fell from 9.2 percent to 7.5 percent, while that from wholesale trade fell from 6.2 to 5.2 percent, reflecting the worsening recession in the country. Income tax collections from the metallurgical industry fell from 3.9 percent of the total in 1982 to 2.1 percent in the first half of this year, and those from the food industry fell from 3.5 percent to 2.7 percent. In total, corporation income tax collections came to 1.2 trillion cruzeiros, while the individual income tax provided 164.3 billion cruzeiros, and collections of income tax at the source yielded 993.7 billion cruzeiros.

The second biggest contributor was the IPI, at 1.09 trillion cruzeiros (down from 27.7 percent to 24.2 percent of total Treasury receipts). The IPI on tobacco fell from 10.82 percent to 9.34 percent of the Treasury's collections. Of the IPI on other products, the greatest increase was in revenues from the IPI on beverages (108 percent).

11798

CSO: 3342/157

POLL REVEALS LACK OF CONFIDENCE IN LATEST ECONOMIC PACKAGE

Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 24 Jul 83 p 42

[Text] Most of the adult population of Sao Paulo and Rio de Janeiro does not believe that the government's recent economic measures--adopted by President Figueiredo shortly before his trip to the United States--can reduce inflation. Moreover, the majority of the inhabitants in those two cities think they will be harmed by those measures and do not believe the banks will be hurt by the controls placed on interest rates. Those are the conclusions drawn from a poll conducted by the Gallup Institute in the two state capitals between 15 and 19 July. The poll comprised 1,287 persons (676 in Sao Paulo and 611 in Rio de Janeiro).

According to the poll, 63 percent of those interviewed in Sao Paulo [SP] feel that the measures in question are not going to reduce or affect the current pace of inflation. That opinion is shared by 57 percent of those interviewed in Rio de Janeiro [RJ]. Only 26 and 34 percent respectively said they thought the measures would slow the pace of inflation. Another 11 percent (SP) and 9 percent (RJ) said they did not know whether the measures would produce the results promised by the government. According to Gallup, people with greater purchasing power showed a greater tendency to expect positive results from the economic package, while those in classes C and D [the two lowest income groups] said they did not believe in their effectiveness.

Wages and Housing

The decree reducing wage and rent increases and mortgage payments on homes acquired through the Housing Financing System [SFH] to 80 percent of the INPC [National Consumer Price Index] will benefit primarily those receiving higher wages and harm the population as a whole, in the opinion of those interviewed in the two cities. Of those polled, 48 percent in Sao Paulo and 47 percent in Rio de Janeiro said the measures would harm those paying rent, while 67 and 73 percent respectively said they would affect those earning lower wages, 46 and 59 percent said they would benefit those earning higher wages, and 53 and 50 percent feel that the package will harm those making payments on homes acquired through the SFH.

Concerning their own situations, 41 percent of those interviewed in both Sao Paulo and Rio de Janeiro sense that the measures are going to harm them.

Interest Rates

As far as controlled bank interest rates are concerned, 49 percent (SP) and 48 percent (RJ) feel that the measure either "will not harm or will benefit" the banks. Another 38 and 37 percent respectively answered that the controls would hurt the banks, while 13 percent (SP) and 15 percent (RJ) had no opinion on the subject.

Poll Results

Question: "Before leaving office, President Figueiredo decreed that the rise in wages, rents, and BNH [National Housing Bank] payments could not exceed 80 percent of the rise in inflation. Do you feel that as a result of those measures, inflation is going to decline or not?"

As a result of the measures decreed by President Figueiredo, inflation will:

	Sao Paulo					Rio de Janeiro				
	Income class					Income class				
	Total	A	B	C	D	Total	A	B	C	D
Decline	26%	31%	22%	26%	22%	34%	37%	37%	34%	32%
Not decline	47	41	52	47	44	50	39	47	54	52
Be unaffected	16	15	17	19	14	7	12	9	7	5
Other answers	3	5	2	4	3	2	2	2	1	2
Don't know	8	8	7	4	17	7	10	5	4	9
Totals	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

11798

CSO: 3342/157

AIR FORCE, ARMY GENERALS: INDIRECT ELECTIONS PREFERABLE

Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 21 Jul 83 p 4

[Text] Porto Alegre--"I feel that we are not yet in a position to hold direct elections for president of the republic." Air Force Gen Thales de Almeida Cruz, commander of the 5th Regional Air Command (COMAR), made that statement yesterday. He emphasized that he was speaking as a citizen and not as the head of an air force unit. Gen Henrique Beckmann Filho, commander of the 3rd Army, expressed the same opinion: "I have always been in favor of indirect elections for president of the republic." But he also said that in his opinion, President Figueiredo's successor would be a civilian. He said: "I feel that at the moment, he is going to be a civilian."

The commander of the 5th COMAR was in Canoas, Rio Grande do Sul to preside over a ceremony for awarding Santos Dumont Medals of Merit, and the commander of the 3rd Army was there as a guest. In a talk with reporters, Gen Thales de Almeida Cruz explained his stand in favor of indirect elections: "We are not sufficiently developed for [direct elections]. My personal opinion is that people can only live in a system of full democracy--and I emphasize that I am speaking as a citizen and not as commander of the 5th COMAR--when they know where their own rights end and those of their neighbors begin." When asked whether he felt that the country had reached that stage, he answered: "Absolutely not. In my personal opinion, we are nowhere near that stage."

Commenting also on Figueiredo's temporary absence, Thales de Almeida Cruz said he did not think the president's absence would harm the current political process. He emphasized: "It only proves that we are fully engaged in the political opening-up and successfully complying with the provisions of the constitution. The vice president took over, just as would happen in any other country in the world. That is normal democracy."

The general feels that the president's absence will not disturb the succession process, and he expects no major effects from the fact that Paulo Maluf is continuing his campaign to reach Planalto Palace. He pointed out that "the president has already said that he was going to control the process, and when he returns, he will continue his control." Concerning Maluf, the general regards him "as a great politician; if he were not, he would not have been able to do what he has done so far." He declined to comment on Minister of Interior Mario Andreazza, saying that the final word on the succession would come from President Figueiredo.

In conclusion, the reporters asked the commander of the 5th COMAR for his opinion on the order of the day issued by Minister of Air Delio Jardim de Mattos, in which he said that the Brazilian crisis "is one of ideas and of courage." The general observed that only the minister could explain what his statement meant, but that he himself considered it a down-to-earth message "stating that the time is a difficult one and that everyone must look ahead, have faith, and work harder and harder."

Beckmann

Gen Henrique Beckmann Filho, commander of the 3rd Army, expressed his opinion in favor of indirect elections for president of the republic and then went on to recall that this is the rule "established for current conditions." Although he supported the idea of having a civilian as the next president, he declined to comment on the current candidates. "There are several civilians suited to become president, but the choice is up to the government party. I have no candidate, because I am not going to vote," he said, pointing out that he is not a member of the Electoral College that will choose the president.

General Beckmann also does not feel that Maluf's forays all over the country will create any disturbance in the incipient process of succession. "The president received instructions from the PDS [Social Democratic Party] to coordinate the succession. How he is going to do it is something that I don't know."

Concerning Deputy Paulo Maluf, another guest at the air force celebration--Claudio Colling, archbishop of Porto Alegre--was more trenchant: "If all the things they say about him are true, I feel that he is not the man for the job, isn't that right? If everything they say about him is true, I feel that he should not be a candidate."

At the ceremony sponsored by the air force to commemorate the birthday of its "patron saint," the 5th COMAR, whose headquarters are in Rio Grande do Sul, honored 18 persons with the Santos Dumont Medal of Merit. One of them was the archbishop of Porto Alegre.

11798

CSO: 3342/157

ATTACK PLANE FOR 'MINAS,' CORVETTES FOR NAVY ANNOUNCED

Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 26 Jul 83 p 5

[Text] Rio de Janeiro--Minister of Air Gen Delio Jardim de Mattos has announced that the Brazilian Air Force agrees with the navy concerning the need to procure an attack plane for the aircraft carrier "Minas Gerais." The general officially announced the agreement with the navy during an interview with O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO and the JORNAL DA TARDE. The second step in the procurement of attack planes--that is, the purchase of equipment--will depend on an analysis of proposals.

The agreement between the air force and the navy will make it possible to place attack planes on the "Minas Gerais," which currently operates with antisubmarine aircraft.

The use of attack planes will increase the strategic usefulness of the Brazilian aircraft carrier, which may continue in service until the start of the 1990's, since it recently underwent a major modernization that is to be its last. According to the policy adopted during the Castello Branco administration, Brazil's military planes are operated by Brazilian Air Force officers, while the navy operates its helicopters.

As Minister of Navy Adm Maximiano Fonseca has already announced, the plane being considered for the "Minas Gerais" is the A-4 Skyhawk. It is not one of the most modern planes for use on aircraft carriers, but it still meets the requirements for good performance in operation, primarily for training, which is the purpose that Admiral Maximiano has in mind.

In the exclusive interview which he granted recently during the inauguration of the Air Force Club's new facilities in Rio de Janeiro, Minister Delio Jardim de Mattos said that the negotiations with Libya for selling planes to that country have not been interrupted. Libya wants to buy the T-27 training plane produced by EMBRAER [Brazilian Aeronautics Company]. That aircraft has been mentioned by a number of foreign air forces as one of the most modern planes that could be designed, and as a result, its prospects on the international market are very good.

General Delio was afraid that the negotiations with Libya might be broken off because of the arms illegally transported by the Libyan Government. Since that

episode had a happy ending, with the war materiel being returned in the same planes that had brought it to Brazil, there are still possibilities for the negotiations concerning the Brazilian aircraft.

The Brazilian airplane with the best prospects among the new ones on the international market is the Brasilia, which will be presented by EMBRAER in Sao Jose dos Campos on the 29th. This aircraft can carry 30 passengers and is intended especially for regional airline traffic.

Navy Opens Bidding for Two Corvettes

The navy has called for bids for the construction of two corvettes in civilian shipyards and the production of centrifugal pumps for the new warships. Authorization to submit bids on those projects was issued last week by the Directorate of Naval Engineering.

The centrifugal pumps are intended for use with the engine systems of the warships, and Brazilian industry is capable of producing them according to specifications established by the navy. This will increase the local manufacturing content of the vessels.

The construction of modern corvettes will increase Brazilian industry's capability and improve its prospects on the international military market. The ships will be built from Brazilian designs in keeping with the policy for producing naval materiel domestically. That policy was begun principally under the administration of Minister Adalberto de Barros Nunes. It continued under Geraldo Henning and has assumed major proportions under the current naval administration.

Construction of the first Brazilian corvette will begin this coming 23 September, when the keel will be laid at the Navy Shipyard in Rio de Janeiro. On the same occasion, the navy's new training ship, already named the "Brasil," will be launched. Its christener will be Dulce Figueiredo.

The new Brazilian corvettes will be warships intended primarily for antisubmarine support and convoy protection missions, but they may also be able to support shore bombardments, using sea-to-sea missiles in surface engagements.

The weapons systems of the corvettes will include the Vickers 4.5mm gun produced in Great Britain and the Bofors 40mm gun produced in Sweden. When commissioned 4 or 5 years from now, the corvettes will increase the Brazilian Navy's strategic power.

According to the navy, domestic industry will participate in the corvette project to the maximum extent possible.

11798

CSO: 3342/157

BRIEFS

UNE HEADQUARTERS--Leonel Brizola's government has made part of the property in Catete once occupied by the Law School of the Rio de Janeiro State University [UERJ] available to the UNE [National Union of Students], which has been without a headquarters since its former offices were destroyed by fire in 1964. The transfer (which is temporary until new offices are built especially for the UNE) was signed yesterday afternoon in the Green Room at Guanabara Palace by the governor and the current chairwoman of the UNE, Clara Araujo. The governor said that by signing the document, he was keeping a promise made to the student leaders about 2 months ago when they visited his apartment to demand possession of the UERJ's former property, which had been closed for years. Clara Araujo said she saw in the document two historic events: official recognition of the UNE and the decision to take that step "at a time when all of Brazil is on strike in the most diverse ways to demand another economic-social policy of the government." Clara Araujo also said that it was the understanding of the student leaders that the new headquarters would "also" be a political-cultural space for students from all over the country. [Text] [Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 22 Jul 83 p 7] 11798

CROP DAMAGE--Minister of Agriculture Amaury Stabile announced yesterday in Rio de Janeiro that floods in the South and drought in the Northeast have destroyed 5 million of the 56 million tons of farm crops forecast for those regions. The minister said: "It is a small loss, considering that 70 percent had been harvested and that the rains came before the new crop was planted." Of the total loss, about 3.3 million tons were lost due to flooding. Stabile also said that the floods in the South affected primarily the rice crop, with the result that Brazil will be forced to import 300,000 tons of rice "just to guarantee the price levels, and also as a psychological measure to prevent speculation, because passing the cost of those losses on to the consumer will not be permitted." He emphasized that the 7 million tons of rice from the current harvest are enough to supply the market. The minister also confirmed that debt payments by farmers in the South have been postponed for a year. [Excerpt] [Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 22 Jul 83 p 23] 11798

CSO: 3342/157

TRADE ASSOCIATIONS SAY PORT STRIKE IS FAILURE

Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 26 Jul 83 pp 1-A, 8-A

[Article by German Navarrete: "Port Strike Failed, Trade Associations Say"]

[Text] Major trade associations yesterday announced that the port strike has failed. Domestic supplies of goods and export commitments have been handled normally by the industry.

The port workers, for their part, have voluntarily returned to work. Yesterday [25 July] an additional 95 workers turned up for work at the Santa Marta maritime terminal, while 5 of the workers most essential for port operations returned to their jobs in Barranquilla.

Furthermore, COLPUERTOS [Colombian Ports Enterprise] is confident of reaching an agreement today with the trade union in Bogota and sent its leaders a message to notify them of a special bonus of 30,000 Colombian pesos for the second half of 1983, as well as salary increases of 20 to 22 percent for 1984.

The company warned that if the CTC [Confederation of Colombian Workers] does not allow the Special Commission of Notables [Comision Especial de Notables], which the CTC itself proposed, to review collective bargaining agreements now in force in COLPUERTOS, the company will not sign any further agreement. Juan Martin Caicedo Ferrer, president of FENALCO [National Federation of Businessmen], said that, "in view of the sufficient demonstration by the country that it supports the government and the company, there is no point in putting off any longer the basic solutions which COLPUERTOS needs to avoid its breakup."

Receipts Increase

The presidents of ANDI [National Association of Industrialists], SAC [Association of Colombian Farmers], FEDEMETAL [Colombian Metallurgical Foundation], CUTMA [Colombian Council of Maritime and Air Transport Users], and the Colombian Association of Coffee Exporters took note of the failure of the port strike yesterday in a message to Juan Manuel Santos Calderon, the assistant publisher of EL TIEMPO. The text of the message was as follows:

"To Juan Manuel Santos Calderon, Bogota:

"The undersigned, who are representatives of production and service trade associations, fully support the actions taken by the government, aimed at maintaining and ensuring normalcy of port operations throughout the country.

"They unanimously recognize that none of the country's economic activities has suffered any deterioration or impairment in terms of service to the public by the Colombian Ports Enterprise at the present time. They are confident that the present, normal situation, due to the correct handling of the situation by the government, will continue. This has ensured both the internal supply situation in the country as well as timely attention to external trade commitments.

"Cordially, Fabio Echeverri Correa, president of the National Association of Industrialists; Gilberto Arango Londono, president of the Colombian Association of Coffee Exporters; Carlos Ossa Escobar, president of the Association of Colombian Farmers; Hernando Arciniegas, president of the Colombian Council of Maritime and Air Transport Users; Carlos del Castillo Restrepo, president of the Colombian Metallurgical Federation."

Vice Admiral Tito Garcia Motta, general manager of COLPUERTOS, revealed that current data on receipts in the maritime terminals shows that they have been exceptionally high. He said on Friday [22 July] "in the midst of a strike the port of Buenaventura collected 20.5 million Colombian pesos; the port of Barranquilla, 8 million; the port of Cartagena, 20 million; and the port of Santa Marta, 27.1 million."

The strike declared by the CTC is now 2 weeks old, with about 5,000 workers staying off the job. The central trade union organization insisted yesterday [25 July] that the strike must continue to prevent the company from revising labor agreements made during the past 10 years.

COLPUERTOS agreements contain provisions for settlement of pay on Sundays and holidays, for handling cases of physical inability to work, schedules of changes for loading and unloading ships, and handling merchandise which arrives in Colombia on containerized ships. These provisions have led to payment for work not done and provided an institutionalized basis for paying more for doing nothing than for working and for being sick.

The CTC and the trade unions on the Atlantic coast today [26 July] will hold a "workers' mini-summit" meeting in Santa Marta, with representatives of the CSTC [Trade Union Confederation of Colombian Workers] and the independent trade unions attending, in order to achieve trade union solidarity in the ports and prevent changes in the existing, collective bargaining agreements.

The CTC was not successful yesterday [25 July] in establishing contact with Luis Carlos Galan Sarmiento, the former presidential candidate, and it announced that a definitive solution of the labor dispute has been in the hands of COLPUERTOS since Saturday [23 July].

Ramon Marquez Iguaran, secretary general of the CTC, told an EL TIEMPO representative: "Vice Admiral Garcia Motta's answer to the last proposal presented by the CTC and the leaders of the trade unions in Buenaventura and on the Atlantic coast should be known by Tuesday [26 July]. His views will be analyzed once again by those of us who signed the letter to the minister of labor on Saturday [23 July]. This will be done so that it will be the same group of trade union leaders who express their views on this new development in the situation."

They Press for a Solution, Using Tacks

In response to the way in which the general strike in the ports has been deteriorating, with the voluntary return to work by some of the workers and the working arrangements that have been made in Tumaco and Bogota, the trade unions of the Atlantic coast have made use of a variety of maneuvers in order to pressure the government to accede to their demands.

Among these maneuvers was placing tacks on the super highway leading to the Barranquilla airport, the proposals of 13 June, the deposit of human feces in front of the homes of COLPUERTOS employees, and hundreds of anonymous phone calls to their homes to threaten them with death, the authorities have reported.

In Santa Marta Aquiles Noguera, the manager of the maritime terminal, denied stories propagated by the strikers about a supposed epidemic of typhoid fever. In Bogota an effort has been made to persuade the media, through verbal statements, to confirm the existence of situations in the ports which do not reflect the truth.

Meanwhile, the strike has been broken by the workers, and temporary arrangements have been reached between the company and some trade unions. Yesterday Jaime Pinzon Lopez, minister of labor, called once again on the CTC and the FEDEPUERTOS [Port Workers Federation] to provide a peaceful solution to the dispute, before the end of the period provided in the law for the appointments of arbitrators in the arbitration courts. The end of this period will be reached on Thursday.

5170

CSO: 3348/605

GLENER PUBLISHES LETTERS FROM THE GRENADIAN ON ELECTIONS

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 18 Jul 83 p 1

[Text]

June 1983

The early General Election pledge made by Maurice Bishop immediately after the New Jewel Movement overthrew the Eric Gairy regime in 1979, will now take a few more years to be fulfilled.

This was revealed by Mrs. Phyllis Coard, deputy minister of the People's Revolutionary Government (PRG) at a Press Conference in Port-of-Spain, on May 27.

In answer to a reporter's question, Mrs. Coard said that Grenadians were not talking about the holding of a general election; all that talk was coming from outside the "Spice" island, she added.

Pressed further as to the reason for the delay, Mrs. Coard said that it was caused by the government's programme of improving the population to read and write and the forming of a Constitution for the country.

The Minister added that the framing of the Constitution has to be discussed by the people of Grenada, at all levels, like the zonal council and individual parishes instead of just the government or a middle-class representative discussion.

At present, she declared, names were being submitted to form a Constitution Commission.

However, the length of time between discussions, and the drafting of the Constitution depended on the zonal councils "who could take a few months to complete their talks."

Jamaican-born Phyllis Coard nee Evans, is the wife of Grenada's Deputy Prime Minister, Bernard Coard, an avowed Marxist and the ideologue of the PRG regime. As such, she has been expousing his political persuasions.

IN LETTERS to the **Trinidad Guardian** and **Trinidad Express**, **The Grenadian** warned that the visit by Mrs. Coard to Trinidad and Tobago was to propogate the views of the PRG. The letters were published on May 27, in part, the letters published unabridged read:—

Trinidad and Tobago is a free and open Society. This openness may well be a source of strength but it could also make the Society vulnerable. Where the rules are the same for all players then it is undoubtedly a source of strength. But where the

rules are for one set of players only then those bound by the rules find themselves fatally vulnerable.

Because of this open society, Trinidad and Tobago will welcome Mrs. Coard. She will have access to the press, radio and television. Those who aspire at the Marxist Lennist Kingdom to come will clasp her to their bosoms. Thereafter, our valiant press will analyse her rantings and try to undo the mischief and uproot the evil which she will intentionally sow among us.

Such are the ways of a free society.

Phyllis Coard, therefore, will be enjoying in Trinidad and Tobago that freedom which her Government denies its opponents in her adopted country.

The performance of the Bishop regime with respect to press freedom is well documented.

It began with the arbitrary closure of the island's only independent newspaper **The Torchlight**. There followed People's Law No. 81 of 1979 Setting out onerous conditions for the publication of independent newspapers.

When, in compliance with the existing laws and all the stringent regulations laid down by the regime, a group of civic minded Grenadians in an attempt to satisfy the need and desire of Grenadians for free expression of their opinions published a small newspaper **The Grenadian Voice** on June 13, 1981, the regime reacted with all the fury and brutality at its command. Some of the people involved were thrown in jail. Others were subject to virulent attacks upon their character both in the Government controlled press and on radio. Some

had their property confiscated.

Of those thrown in jail without indictment or trial were Lloyd Noel, and Tillman Thomas two lawyers, Leslie Pierre a journalist, and his brother Eric Pierre, union leader. Noel, Thomas and L. Pierre have now been in Bishop's jail for one year and eleven months. Both Noel and Pierre are family men, whose wives and children are now destitute and living off the charity of friends and relatives. Mr. Alister Hughes, noted Caribbean journalist was threatened with violence and his car taken away. Mr. Hughes was further harrassed and threatened at the Airport when he tried to leave the Island on legitimate business.

In this setting, Mrs. Coard comes to lecture us on the "Achievements of the Bishop regime."

To accept Mrs. Coard we must of necessity stifle our democratic consciences and extol the virtues of totalitarianism.

We must forget the suffering of those who languish in Richmond Hill prison being allowed one hour out of their cells each day.

We must continue to grow fat in the brain on a diet of false promises about the freeing of political detainees, and on deceptions as to economic progress and the reduction of unemployment.

We must forget our Security and be lulled by promises of non-interference in our domestic affairs while our youths are lured away for training in subversion and guerilla warfare.

Our democracy is like a knife. We can use it to defend ourselves. We can hand it to others who wish to slit our throats. **THE GRENADIAN**

POINT-BY-POINT ANALYSIS OF MISLEADING ECONOMIC STATISTICS

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 16 Jul 83 p 10

[Text]

During celebrations this March marking the fourth year of Grenada's revolution, Prime Minister Maurice Bishop announced the island's economic growth for 1982 was a record 5.5 per cent. However, informed sources in the Caribbean dispute the accuracy of Bishop's statistics when examined with other available information about life in Grenada.

1. Since the 1979 coup, Cuba's Fidel Castro has been Bishop's guiding light and close adviser. In exchange for Bishop's embrace of Cuban-style revolution Castro promised to make Grenada a "showcase of Socialist development." Like Cuba and other socialist models, the reality of socialist development has meant high inflation, unemployment, low productivity in the agricultural and industrial sectors and an exodus of Grenada's professional classes and skilled laborers.

2. There are, of course, no statistics on the number of Grenadians who left the country after the revolution. However, the impact of the brain drain might be gauged by the fact the government spent \$220,000 for a programme in 1981 to encourage the return of skilled Grenadians living abroad.

3. Bishop claims to have reduced unemployment on the island from 49 % before the revolution to 14 % today, and cites the creation of several thousand new jobs as one factor in the decline. Sources skeptical of the statistics note that many of Grenada's unemployed, particularly the young, have been rounded up into the people's militia. According to reliable sources, Bishop, with Cuban advisers and weapons, will expand the people's militia from 4,000 to 8,000 people in the near

future. Doubling the size of the militia inflates the Government payroll while lowering unemployment statistic. The island's total population is only 120,000.

4. Grenada's potentially lucrative tourist sector has been hit hard by the revolution as vacationers to the Caribbean are favouring more politically stable and peaceful islands. The number of cruise ships calling on Grenada dropped by 50% in the first year after the coup, and hotels also reported a 50% decline in bookings. Official statistics for 1982 stated that visitors to the island dropped another 22% and the number of cruise ships calling at port dropped an additional 19.6%. Tourism once produced 60% of the island's hard currency revenues.

5. Cubans are taking up a number of jobs in all sectors of the economy. At least 400 labourers are working on the construction of the Point Salines Airport and Cuban advisers serve in Government ministries, in the agricultural and industrial sectors, the media and in educational and medical professions.

6. At a March, 1983 conference on Grenada's economy, Deputy Prime Minister Bernard Coard told delegates that productivity in the island's state enterprises was very poor. Half of the state-run enterprises failed to achieve their production objectives in 1982. Despite a Cuban-donated fishing fleet and advisers, the National Fisheries Co. was the worst, falling 82% short of its 1982 objectives.

7. In 1980 Cubans established the "Grenada Fisheries School," offering a three month course in the techniques of modern fishing. The Cubans and Soviets also promised to develop a shrimp industry for the island. But it has not yet materialized.

8. The state-run Grenada Farms Cor-

poration (GFC) also fared badly in 1982, with a loss of \$1.5 million or 176% on a production of \$851,500. The Corporation manages 23 Government owned farms which cultivate a variety of crops including bananas and spices. Bernard Coard attributed GFC's failures to "poor organization and management". Sources on the island say the lack of worker incentives was also a prime factor.

9. According to Coard, the average age of the agricultural worker in Grenada is 51 years, and that "his technology is primitive and his productivity low." Motivation is a problem, with wages averaging \$8.50 a day, and the workers producing less than \$3 to \$4 a day in agricultural produce, according to Coard's own estimates.

Food up 44%

10. Theft is also a serious problem reducing production level on the state farms. With food costs up 44% last year, workers are supplementing their diets with stolen produce. Clothing costs also rose 43% last year.

11. Not all of Grenada's farm land is collectivized but the private farmer is at a distinct disadvantage and often finds his produce is left to rot at the packing house while state produce takes priority. The private farmer must also turn over one third of his profits to the government and has no guaranteed market for his crops. One farmer said that the state farms receive priority when seeds, fertilizers, insecticides, etc. are available and that he must sell 200 pounds of bananas to purchase one bag of fertilizer.

12. Road conditions are very bad in the farming regions and the private farmers complain that poor transportation and impassable roads also create serious losses in revenue.

13. The Soviet Union agreed in 1982 to purchase large amounts of Grenada's nutmeg and cocoa at "stable prices". Grenada's spice exports have been seriously affected by the world economic recession and declining prices for their main exports. Prior to the Soviet deal, Grenada's nutmeg exports declined 68.5% in 1982 and cocoa by 29.7%.

BISHOP LASHES OUT AT TRINIDAD-TOBAGO 'MEDIA MAFIAS'

Bridgetown BARBADOS ADVOCATE in English 14 Jul 83 p 3

[Text]

ST. GEORGES, Grenada, Wednesday, (CANA) — Grenada's Prime Minister, Maurice Bishop has described the management of Trinidad and Tobago's Guardian and Express newspaper, which have consistently attacked his government's human rights record, as "media mafias."

Bishop made his criticism shortly after returning home from last week's Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Heads of Government conference in Trinidad and Tobago, where he said the two dailies had been the only source of hostility against the Grenada delegation.

Bishop said the Guardian had instructed its reporters not to attend press conferences and

briefings given by the Grenada delegation, not to interview or cover anything said by Grenada during the course of the conference.

He charged that when a delegation of journalists from the newspaper approached management about the issue it was told: "We own the newspaper, and we decide what we must do."

"The vulgarity of these media mafias was really exposed during the visit, and I think that's going to be one of the more useful long-term aspects of this visit."

The Trinidad and Tobago newspapers had voiced concern about the failure of Bishop's Peoples Revolutionary Government (PRG), which took power in a 1979 coup, to hold promised

general elections and about the detention of some of the government's opponents without charges being brought against them.

The Prime Minister said he felt that as a result of the Guardian newspapers action people would now be able to interpret what he called the lies, distortions and fabrications of the media.

He said they would be able to test that against what they have seen and as a result they would always remember the popularity of the Grenada delegation and the tremendous sympathy and support demonstrated by the people of Trinidad and Tobago.

CSO: 3298/829

AGRONOMIST APPLAUDS INCENTIVES FOR COTTON, TAX REFORM

Guatemala City DIARIO DE CENTRO AMERICA in Spanish 2 Aug 83 p 9

[Text] The well-known Guatemalan farmer Teddy Plocharsky has described as valuable and interesting the various aspects of the reactivation of cotton growing in our country, an area of Guatemalan agriculture that was being abandoned to the detriment of the national economy.

Visible Incentives

Plocharsky stated that the incentives that the government is giving for growing cotton are visible, above all, through what "the minister of agriculture is doing and especially the government of the republic, in the support that is being given so that this land which was going to remain unplanted will be planted, so that all of these people who were going to be without work will now have an income and the country will now have a very good revenue by way of foreign currency for the cotton."

This Year A Good Planting Is Going To Be Made

This year and because of all the incentives and support that the government is giving us, a substantial planting is going to be made, emphasized Plocharsky, stating that "this land belonged to the company Plantaciones Coyolate S.A. We had the chance to rent it starting from last month and for a 2 year period. Last year approximately 6,300 manzanas [1 manzana is equivalent of 1.75 acres] were planted. We are going to plant the same area, only that with the support and with all the financing that the government is giving, we are going to be able to give it due attention. Last year we could not fumigate as had to be done, but now with the support of the workers we are going to be able to make a new planting."

More Than 10,000 Workers Will Be Used

Quite certain and optimistic, Plocharsky stated that this year only in harvesting they are going to employ more than 10,000 workers. "Last year we had a small plot of cotton, below Tiquisate, which was our first attempt, but this is the first year that we are really launching ourselves on a big scale. We believe that there will be 15,000 manzanas more of cotton this year than last year, and the output and support that the government is giving with

adequate financing and good weather is going to improve production and export very much."

A Good Future For Cotton

"I believe," Plocharsky pointed out, "that starting now there will be a good future for cotton, more than anything because of the assistance and concern that the government is giving, a support that Guatemala deserves. I believe that cotton is a crop that must be promoted and that it can give benefits to the country; for this reason the future of the crop is good and it will once again emerge as a positive alternative of foreign currency revenue for Guatemala."

Optimistic Regarding the International Market

Finally, Plocharsky pointed out that he is very optimistic regarding the outlook of the international market in cotton. He bases his opinion on the fact that prices have stabilized this week, prices tend to rise, and he believes finally that Guatemala will obtain a good price for its cotton at the end of the year.

Tax Reform A New Stimulus

Plocharsky also pointed out that the tax reform that the government of General Efraín Ríos Montt has started is a new stimulus, since its export duties are going to be reduced, which although they were not as high for cotton as for coffee, Plocharsky emphasized, there always ceased to be money that was invested to pay daily wages and to always work cotton. It is going to be a fabulous package for everyone, because it is going to help us to be able to produce more, to give more work and to give more for Guatemala.

Plocharsky made these statements during the visit to the Minister of Agriculture, Livestock and Food, agricultural engineer Leopoldo Sandoval Villeda and a group of journalists, to several cotton mills on Guatemala's southern coast and on visiting the Pangola and Pangolita ranches in Escuintla.

0045

330: 3248/1165

INDUSTRIES NEED 'CORFINA' LOANS TO AVOID BANKRUPTCY

Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 11 July 83 p 4

[Text] Various Guatemalan industries, with millions invested, are on the brink of bankruptcy in the event Corfina does not follow through with loans they solicited. And they are concerned because now they are being threatened with judicial proceedings.

It was revealed that close to 30 million have been invested in the following industries: Valcasa, Alusa, Tablver, Guategrava, Incodepa, Encasa and Avix. Nevertheless, to complete their operations by delivery of machinery, equipment, enlistment of personnel etc., they will need almost half of the solicited loans.

Corfina, it was said, financed these projects. However, at the root of the 'coup' and the investigation that has unfolded in all credit operations, some opposition cropped up, because, in all truthfulness, many companies caused the institution to fall into administrative corruption. But the aforementioned enterprises, it was assured, are in the clear, as has already been proven.

Our sources revealed that efforts came to a standstill--as though Corfina were not an institution for development--and so they have resorted to asking the president of the Republic to intervene to put an end to the crisis. This despite the fact that several possible solutions have fallen on deaf ears.

They say that Corfina is bent solely on saving itself financially, without giving them any alternative. This, despite the fact that many of these companies are at a standstill because their machinery is tied up at ports. Another reason is lack of money so that some of them only received half of what they needed.

Our source indicated that all this has caused a lack of job sources, loss of investment, problems with export, and what is more important, the lack of revenue to the country. All they ask is for their loans to come through to overcome the crisis they are in, and thus begin to work and realize a quick recovery.

Finally, they explained that several well-known hotels in the same predicament are being threatened with demand for payment by Corfina.

12445

CSO: 3248/1090

CHAMBER OF TOURISM CONFIRMS REPORT THAT TOURISM NOT RECOVERING

Guatemala City EL IMPARCIAL in Spanish 11 July 83, pp 1, 11

[For an article dealing with a related subject please see JPRS 84115, 12 August 1983, No. 2723 of this series, pp 41-44]

[Text] In a press bulletin, issued by the Chamber of Tourism, hotel unions, travel agencies, car leasers and the airlines confirmed that there is no "recovery of tourism" in Guatemala, as published by a morning newspaper on Friday.

The above-mentioned sectors of the economy point out that they have been informed by their work force--the "barometer" of the trends in the tourist industry--that said recovery is "false." This was also indicated in a story appearing in the same issue of the newspaper, on the same page. According to the story, 30 hotels are in danger of foreclosure by "Corfina" for failure to render payment as a result of the deteriorating tourist trade.

Furthermore, adds the Chamber, the big hotels are surviving thanks to local social events and to business-related activities, which, although minimum, are holding steady.

Travel agencies have been severely hit. Some have had to close down and others are barely surviving and in the red. Automobile leasing companies also must depend almost exclusively on local activity. The airline companies have incurred a considerable loss of passengers and have been forced to reduce the number of flights.

Finally, says the Chamber, tourism being so encompassing on a national and international scope etc., travel statistics do not always accurately reflect the actual situation at hand. And it is becoming necessary for passports to carry information that reveal data concerning visitors, who travel in the country i.e., traveler, tourist or businessman.

12445

CSO: 3248/1090

ATAGUA RELEASES SUGAR STUDIES

Guatemala City DIARIO DE CENTRO AMERICA in Spanish 11 Jul 83 p 3

[Text] The latest technological advances in the national sugar industry, as well as production processes and the problems that industrial growers must deal with in this important branch of the economy, were announced by the Association of Guatemalan Technicians (ATAGUA) in their bulletin for January-March, 1983.

The bulletin refers to a study on the "Use of sugarcane immune to the fungus 'ustilago scitaminer'". The research study was conducted by Mr Raul Jose Minondo from the University del Valle in Guatemala; Mr Rogelio Gomez from the Pantaleon Refinery, S.A.; and Mr Julio Roberto Tejada from the Sugarcane Association in Guatemala.

On the basis of this study it was concluded that the "appraisement of a wide range of varieties has benefitted the programs of genetic improvement and their adaptation in Guatemala, since already experimental varieties have been uncovered that will resist 'carbon' and many of these have been utilized in programs of selection. Other susceptible varieties have been or are being eliminated from the sugarcane area of the country.

As for control of the above-mentioned fungus, the report indicates that presently the only economic means of control in areas where the disease is already established, is the use of immune varieties keeping in mind that in the future the chance that this fungus will produce species that are physiologically different makes it imperative that for projects where one or several immune varieties are used at a given time they should be eliminated a few years afterwards because they will become vulnerable to carbon.

In another part of the report can be found a piece of work by Mr Ricardo Schaeuffler from the Santa Ana Refinery dealing with "Experiments on the use of mechanical sugarcane harvestors in Guatemala".

Mr Schaeuffler points out that one of the effects of greatest impact on the cost of dealing with sugar has been the cutting, harvesting and transport of the cane to the refinery. This situation has prompted since the 1960's the introduction into the country of different types of sugarcane cutters as well as mechanized systems of harvest. The first sugarcane cutter was used in

Australia in 1965 and later introduced here from there.

Mr Miguel Rodriguez, technical and executive director of "Consultants for Sugar Refineries, S.A.," explains in an article entitled "Foreign matter in sugarcane, a plague to the sugar industry" the problems that confront them, pointing out that the worst curse for them is the so-called "Foreign matter," consisting of dirt, sand, rocks, straw, old remnants of sugarcane, jags, shoots etc., which has virtually destroyed the sugar industry in Puerto Rico and in other countries where it exists with economic subsidy of the government like Hawaii and Louisiana.

12445

CSO: 3248/1090

COTTON SALES TO TAIWAN--Mr Manuel de Jesus Giron Sanchez, Secretary General to the Presidency of the Republic, said this morning that during his recent trip to the Republic of China--by invitation of that nation--he signed a complementary treaty to that already existing since 16 April 1979 between Guatemala and Taiwan. The new treaty establishes that our cotton will be purchased by Taiwan at an annual quantity of up to 50,000 bales. The treaty will be in effect for 5 years. That amount of cotton represents some 250,000 quintals that will generate approximately \$20 million at the present world market rate. It is thought that this is a very efficient method of strengthening and boosting mutual trade and to develop a commercial reciprocity in a manner that is equitable and harmonious directly in tune with the existing good relations between both countries and both governments. The government of Taiwan is disposed to increase its commercial relations with Guatemala. The treaty was signed by the Minister of Foreign relations from the Republic of China, Doctor Fu Sung Chu and Mr Manuel de Jesus Giron Sanchez, Secretary General of the Republic, who was officially designated to sign said treaty. [Text] [Guatemala City DIARIO DE CENTRO AMERICA in Spanish 12 Jul 83 p 1] 12445

COCOA BEAN PRODUCTION--Guatemala will be able to produce sufficient amounts of cocoa bean, to greatly supplement coffee exports, according to Doctor Jorge Soria, world expert in cocoa cultivation. Yesterday he paid a visit to Minister of Agriculture Leopoldo Sandoval, to communicate to him the results of his cocoa bean research conducted in Guatemala. Soria said that he is glad that the cultivation of the cocoa bean is being emphasized in Guatemala because this has a great future, given the climatological conditions of our country. With new hybrid varieties and suitable clones, production could be tripled to the point that this could be the principal source of export for the country. At the present time there are in Guatemala cultivated fields consisting of 3,000 hectares of cocoa bean that produce 40,000 quintals. With the new varieties, and if they succeed in planting 5,000 hectares more, a production of 120,000 quintales could be realized. Since the cocoa bean has a ready-made market and a stable price, this could be Guatemala's greatest source of foreign exchange revenue. [Text] [Guatemala City EL IMPARCIAL in Spanish 9 Jul 83 p 4] 12445

COTTON BRINGS FOREIGN EXCHANGE--Cotton production in 1983 will generate a little more than \$100 million in foreign currency, said yesterday Minister of Agriculture, Livestock and Food, Leopoldo Sandoval Villeda. He added that, on the other hand, 20 million day laboring jobs are already being created as a source of work for Guatemalans, resulting--he cited--from the cotton reactivation. Sandoval said that last Saturday he visited the Pangola, Pangolita and Laureles ranches and observed activity never before seen in cotton planting. He said that the stimuli that the government has given and the already improved prices in the international market are opening big opportunities for the growing of this crop. If these measures had been put into practice many years ago, in 1983 we would have been able to plant a greater quantity of manzanas [1 manzana is equivalent of 1.75 acres] for growing cotton. Of course, this follows the principle that several farmers had other plans for growing because they were lacking stimuli from the government. [Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 2 Aug 83 p 6] 9545

CSO: 3248/1165

BRIEFS

SUGAR TARGET SHORTFALL--GEORGETOWN, Guyana, Friday (CANA)--Guyana has announced a 20 000 long long ton cut in its projected 1983 sugar output, as preparations continue for the start of reaping of the second of the two annual crops. Chairman of the state-owned Guyana Sugar Corporation (GUYSUCO) Harold Davis said production for the year was now expected to total 280 000 tons compared with the original 300 000 tons. The first crop ended on May 14, yielding 86 085 long tons, of an original target of 100 070 tons. This he said would mean that the second crop would have to produce 193 905 tons to realise revised projections. Last year the industry's output was 288 488 tons--11,512 tons below the target of 300 000 tons. The first crop yielded 86 855 long tons, while 201 633 tons came out of the second crop. [Bridgetown BARBADOS ADVOCATE in English 16 Jul 83 p 3]

CSO: 3298/830

RNP DIRECTOR REFUTES LIBERAL PARTY CHARGES

Tegucigalpa LA TRIBUNA in Spanish 29 Jul 83 p 2

[Text] Orlando Iriarte, director of the National Register of Persons [RNP], said that the RNP Law was changed by the Liberal Party [PL] to avoid a cleanup of the Civil Registry and to prevent revelation of the magnitude of the fraud perpetrated in the last presidential elections.

Iriarte denied the accusations made against him by PL leaders with regard to the management of the RNP. He said that the RNP had been properly operated from the technical, administrative and moral points of view.

Referring to his possible removal as RNP director, Iriarte requested the collaboration of the media in revealing the political background of what happened with regard to the changes of the law. He warned that "After this, they will accuse and slander me personally and my party. We are resolved to refute these accusations and slanders because we do not doubt that they will try to discredit us personally."

He said, "We have no fear because at no time have we acted unjustly, maliciously or for illicit gain while holding any public office."

Iriarte repeated that he is ready to participate in a public debate with the PL concerning the "political-administrative objectives sought through the changes in the RNP Law." He suggested that persons of recognized probity be appointed to evaluate the work done by the RNP.

Political Motives

The director of the RNP said that from every point of view the changes in the law are negative for the democratization process which has begun in the country.

He said that the accusations of poor administration and waste of RNP funds have no foundation and that with these accusations an attempt is being made to conceal the partisan political motives which impelled the PL to make the changes in the law.

Facts and Deeds

Insofar as national security and the democratization process are concerned, he said those changes will have a negative effect on the search for a true democratic response on the part of the country.

According to Iriarte, "These changes show that the Liberal Party...we make an exception in the case of some of the PL leaders such as Jose Azcona Hoyo, whom we respect, because we believe that aside from the political circumstances which may have led to the RNP changes, he was deceived by false reports."

However, he accused the group who control the government and power in the PL of not making "a real and honest effort in search for a democratic answer for the country."

Evidently the PL or its dominating group are seeking to set up a system which will give them control over the Civil Registry, the identification of persons and the voters' lists so that they can guarantee the permanence of the PL in the government of Honduras. He said this "would be very harmful to the country."

He warned that such a system will be set up during the first year of operation of the RNP which is when the PL will direct that body. This means that as of now, the various activities probably will be so directed as to meet the interests of that party.

He added, "This is the basic problem. The problem is not the reasons presented for the changing of the law, because those reasons do not justify those changes since the problem could have been solved by removing the director of the RNP through the National Elections Tribunal [TNE]."

Iriarte said that when the general aspects of the management of the RNP were discussed in the TNE "at no time were the deficiencies and irregularities for which he is now blamed pointed out to the director."

He added that what the PL really feared is that a real and genuine investigation will be made of the Civil Registry in various parts of the country through an exact inventory of the contents of the books for registering, coding and numbering births. This would lead to an increase in the number of ID cards issued to the citizens.

This would be a preliminary step for setting up a computerized central archive through which would be programmed a thorough control of birth certificates and ID cards and also including microfilm processing and a center for recording the fingerprints of every citizen.

He added that this undertaking is unlike the inventory made by TNE in most municipalities of the country because the latter was technically inconsistent and was unreliable. That is why the RNP was going to complete that inventory.

Iriarte said, "In essence, such an investigation could reveal all the irregularities and manipulations made in the Civil Registry of Honduras during all its political history which have resulted in election frauds which brought about a distribution of power which did not correspond to true electoral strength."

He added "Proof of this is the agreement between all the legally registered parties and TNE to suspend the municipal elections scheduled for November 1983."

9204

CSO: 3248/1161

PNP RAPS U.S. 'AGGRESSION,' OFFERS CENTRAL AMERICA PLAN

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 30 Jul 83 pp 1, 30

[Excerpts]

The PNP has accused President Reagan and the U.S. Government of acts of military aggression and subversion against Nicaragua and Grenada, and has called upon the Reagan Administration to cease those acts.

In a statement on Central America, the PNP through its leader Mr. Michael Manley has said that President Reagan's administration is not interested in peace efforts. The PNP then proposes that Summit meeting of Central American States under the under the auspices of the UN be held with the rebels of El Salvador (the FMLN-FDR) invited as participants, and that the U.S. cease all military and logistical aid to El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras; and that the U.S. should withdraw aid to the right wing rebels fighting against the Sandinista Government of Nicaragua. The text of the statement is as follows:

The leadership of the People's National Party along with other peace loving peoples throughout the world continue to be alarmed at the escalation of violence and at the serious deterioration in the political situation in Central America. The PNP is also alarmed and outraged at the barefaced attempts being made to misrepresent the causes for this situation so as to lay a basis for United States intervention. This intervention aims at enforcing upon the people of the region certain military, political and ideological objectives of the Reagan administration.

It is important that Public Opinion be alerted to such attempts, and that we do not lose sight of the true causes which are rooted in the history of the region.

We restate our beliefs which are shared by many nations and leaders of our region and the world, that the dominant causes of the turmoil in Guatemala, El Salvador and Honduras are the hunger, poverty and lack of opportunity which decades of oppression and exploitation undertaken behind the protective curtain of the Munroe Doctrine have produced.

Against this historical background, the PNP sees the Nicaraguan revolution as a positive phenomenon in the continuing struggles of the people of the region for survival and for the establishment and preservation of their national and individual dignity and independence.

SAVAGE REALITY

It is a savage reality which profoundly grieves the Party that despite achieving success in ridding themselves of the brutal Somoza regime which ruled and oppressed them for some 45 years, the people of Nicaragua must now suffer yet another campaign instigated, financed and supported by the Reagan Administration to defend their gains and above all to defend their right to be masters in their own country.

The People's National Party rejects the transparent suggestion that the Nicaraguan revolution (or the Grenadian revolution) are canned products imported into those societies from Moscow via Havana. We recognise these revolutions as their peoples' responses to decades of oppression and exploitation.

We are concerned and grieved at the escalation of violence which we believe is the direct consequence of the policies of the Reagan Administration towards the region. These policies have put the people of Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador and Nicaragua in grave peril and, unless immediately reversed, will continue to result in the senseless slaughter of thousands of innocent men, women and children of these besieged nations.

Honduras is being openly used to further the designs of the Reagan administration against the revolutionary government of Nicaragua and the liberal movements of the region. Used as a training base for forces hostile to Nicaragua intent upon securing its destruction by open military means; used as a base for subversive action planned, encouraged and executed by the CIA and as a base from which foreign forces operate openly against Nicaragua, Honduras is now condemned to pursue a course of hostility against a neighbour with whom it should be enlocked in friendly and earnest efforts as Third World neighbours sharing common problems, cooperating to find and together apply common solutions.

Guatemala at the very height of the repression and brutality by the Rios Montt dictatorship has been forced back upon the list of countries not debarred from obtaining arms from the Reagan Administration because of Human Rights violation.

The People's National Party urges upon the Reagan Administration that it contemplates the effect that this will have for the fledgling and proud nation of El Salvador.

AMERICAN PEOPLE • COMMENDED

The PNP notes and commends the people of the United States and the Congress of the US for the

growing opposition to the Reagan policies which are causing such suffering in the region.

We warn that as the brutal regimes in El Salvador and Guatemala lose ground to the liberation movements in those countries, the danger of direct military intervention by the armed forces of the United States will increase under the Reagan Administration.

In Nicaragua, the Reagan administration has moved from:

- i) economic blockade
- ii) the cutting of aid and
- iii) internal political and economic destabilisation to direct military action and has employed sundry subterfuges to undermine and bypass constraints imposed by the US Congress. Thousands of ex-Somoza former national guardsmen have been trained and armed to invade Nicaragua from Honduras.

We believe that the armed conflict in Nicaragua aims at the destruction of the Nicaraguan revolution and the reinstatement of a Somoza regime which would be ideologically acceptable to the present administration of the United States, some of whose leaders are well known former lobbyists for the infamous Somoza and his brutal and bloody regime.

PNP POSITION

On the basis of the foregoing and other information available to the PNP, we state our position as follows:

1. That the efforts of the Contadora Group be reactivated, notwithstanding US opposition.

2. That attempts be made to convene a summit of Central American nations under the auspices of the United Nations, to which the FMLN-FDR should be invited as participants.

3. That the US cease all military aid to El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras as a confidence-building measure.

4. That the US Administration and Honduras withdraw their material and logistical support for the insurgents attempting to unseat the Nicaraguan Government.

5. That in order to create some confidence in the intentions of the Reagan administration, that administration should cease to pressure the Honduran Government not to hold bilateral dialogue with Nicaragua within the ambit of the Contadora Group, as the members of the group have proposed, to ease the strained relations between those two neighbouring States.

6. That the Reagan administration accept the proposal of the Nicaraguan Government to hold bilateral dialogue, to ease the tensions between them.

JOINT JAMAICAN-MEXICAN GROUP TO STUDY TRADE RELATIONS

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 23 Jul 83 p 1

[Text] A Working Group from Jamaica and Mexico is to be established to meet "within the shortest possible time" to examine ways in which economic and trade relations between the two countries can be strengthened.

This was decided in discussions between Jamaica's Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, Rt. Hon. Hugh Shearer, and Mexico's Secretary of Foreign Relations Lic. Bernardo Sepulveda during Mr. Shearer's official visit to Mexico which ended yesterday. The decision was announced as part of a communique issued yesterday afternoon.

According to the communique, "the working group will examine areas in which exchanges and cooperation can be increased, including trade, economic and financial relations, tourism, airline communication between the two countries, and (will) present concrete proposals for formulating specific projects that are viable."

The communique describes the talks between Mr. Shearer and Lic. Sepulveda as taking place "in a friendly atmosphere", in which "the cordial relations between Jamaica and Mexico were made clear."

In their discussions on the situation in Latin America, the two Foreign Ministers "highlighted with concern the growing danger of a widening of the conflicts" in that region. They agreed, according to the communique, "on the urgent need to establish conditions of peace in the region through dialogue and the coming together of the policies of the parties involved."

Mr. Shearer informed Lic. Sepulveda of the support of CARICOM Heads of Government for the efforts of the Contadora Group, and added Jamaica's "support and solidarity for the proposals contained in the Cancun declaration on peace in Central America issued on July 17" by the Presidents of Colombia, Mexico, Panama and Venezuela.

The two Foreign Ministers "underscored the importance of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea which was signed in Jamaica on December 10, 1982, and agreed that the convention was an integrated legal regime that could not be selectively applied in a manner which seeks to make use of its rights and ignore its obligations," said the communique.

Secretary Sepulveda accepted the invitation of Mr. Shearer to make an official visit to Jamaica in the near future.

MANLEY SAYS PNP POLICIES WOULD BRING SOCIAL GROWTH

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 28 Jul 83 p 17

[Text]

Opposition Leader Michael Manley has said that the People's National Party is dedicated to the development of economic strategies which would lead to social development.

Mr. Manley said also that any society that did not use economic development for social development was heading for trouble and anarchy one day.

Addressing the PNP's fund-raising dinner at the Montego Bay Community College, St. James, on Saturday night, the PNP president said the party believed in a society in which the people were able to rise to the greatest heights through their ability.

The People's National Party believed in all the people sharing in economic growth, he said, and it was his contention that the society as a whole must struggle against poverty and unemployment.

Turning to what, he said, the party believed in,

the Opposition Leader said that the People's National Party believed that special efforts must be made to ensure the development of small farmers, and small businesses. It also believed in discipline. He said that the PNP would never be a party to the present policies which are destroying the small farming and small business sectors of the society.

Mr. Manley said that while the People's National Party believed in attracting foreign capital, the development of the tourist industry and had respect for the private sector, its first commitment was toward opportunities for Jamaicans. The party believed in the building of Jamaica using Jamaican hands.

The Opposition Leader said he was not surprised that Jamaica was now in a crisis, as the country was being governed by a set of adventurers who came to power and told the country a lie that the country could live at any standard

it wants as the Government would be able to finance it.

Mr. Manley restated that the Government had borrowed more than one and a quarter billion dollars since coming to power, over 50 per cent more than the amount borrowed by the PNP in 8½ years of government; but despite this massive borrowing the country was experiencing more lay-offs than at any other time and a total foreign exchange crisis.

He said that the foreign exchange crisis was so bad that the Government has had to ask the commercial banks to withhold dollars in order for the Government to finance the country's oil bill and other essential payments.

Mr. Manley said that the only thing the government could boast about achieving was an increase in tourist arrivals and even this increase had come about not because of the Government, but because the country was "at peace".

SHEARER NOTES EXPORTERS' PLANS FOR EXPLOITING U.S. MARKET

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 29 Jul 83 p 1

[Text] The Jamaica National Export Corporation has developed a major programme of activities to prepare exporters to exploit advantages offered by the trade Bill portion of the Caribbean Basin Initiative (C.B.I.), according to the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Trade, Rt. Hon. Hugh Shearer.

He said that the JNEC is presently analysing the list of some 200 items for which duty free treatment has been approved. Special attention is being given, in this analysis, to fresh produce for which preferred access is permitted only during certain seasons.

The Foreign Trade Minister pointed out that produce market studies already exist in the JNEC's Trade Information Service. Of these, some 50 reports are being cross referenced to the CBI list, for any update necessary. Product by product analysis of the list will permit targeting of areas with greatest potential, and of those US markets best suited to a manageable market penetration strategy.

Mr. Shearer, who was speaking at the first meeting of the new J.N.E.C. Board of Directors on Wednesday, said that the Corporation was also organising a series of seminars on strategies for penetrating the U.S. market in a carefully-structured training plan in conjunction with the JEA, JAS and JMA, a news release from the Organisation said.

Speaking about the seminars he said that the first will be held in September jointly with the University of Miami and will carry the theme "Doing Business with the U.S.A.".

As part of the major programme, discussions have already begun with the International Executive Service Corps of retired U.S. executives to organise a programme to channel technical assistance to the local private sector.

The Corporation, along with the United States Information Service (U.S.I.S.), would be holding a Packaging Seminar in October this year, dealing with U.S. market demand for specialist packaging and labelling for maximum U.S. consumer appeal, Mr. Shearer said.

The Foreign Affairs Minister announced that the J.N.E.C., in concert with the Organisation of American States (O.A.S.), was publishing a special edition of the OAS Exportable Opportunities Bulletin.

This Bulletin will carry a listing of Jamaican exporters and their products including information on size, packaging f.o.b. quotations and exportable volumes, on a monthly, quarterly and annual basis.

"Our Trade Commissioners in Miami and New York will be working closely with the U.S. Department of Commerce officials in target market areas and they will be assisting buyer/seller contacts under the C.B.I.", Mr. Shearer said.

CSO: 3298/831

PNP STATEMENT URGES CHANGES IN LEGAL LEGISLATION

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 16 Jul 83 p 2

[Text] The PNP has called for a review of the Gun Court legislation with a view to repealing it.

The call was made in a statement issued on Tuesday by PNP general secretary Dr. Paul Robertson.

The statement said in part:

"The People's National Party takes note of certain issues, namely the State of Emergency, the Gun Court and the Home Guard, raised by the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, Neville Gallimore, in seeking to answer certain charges of human rights abuses levelled by Grenada Prime Minister, Maurice Bishop, at the Jamaican Government, arising from remarks made by Prime Minister Edward Seaga during his speech at the Fourth CARICOM Heads of Government Conference concerning human rights violations in Grenada.

"Opposition Leader and President of the People's National Party, Mr. Michael Manley has already dealt with the legality and constitutionality of the State of Emergency in his address to the PNP Women's Movement conference on Sunday, July 10.

"With regard to the Gun Court, it must be recalled that this institution was established by the government at the time as it sought innovative measures designed to deal with the awful phenomenon of escalating gun crimes as well as the protection of witnesses. It must be recalled that at the time of the establishment of the Gun Court the society was in fear, witnesses were being murdered to prevent them appearing in court to give evidence.

"It must also be recalled that in many instances children were used by adults to carry guns which were used to commit crimes as the law did not provide adequately to address this problem.

"The People's National Party recognised that the Gun Court legislation contain certain deficiencies in both the legislation and its operation and as such it was carefully and constantly monitored.

"The People's National Party has always made the point that the Gun Court was never intended to be a permanent fixture and it is significant that although the Jamaica Labour party Government has rectified certain jurisprudential weaknesses in the legislation the government has not sought to repeal the law and thus abolish the Gun Court. Perhaps it is now time for a review of the Gun Court legislation with the view to repealing the legislation.

"It is also significant that the Government, although abolishing the mandatory sentence of life imprisonment has not seen it fit to reprieve those who would have been sentenced to five (5) years imprisonment had the law as it stands existed at the time.

"With regard to the Home Guard, one can only described the Minister's statement as the continuing perpetration of inaccuracies to which his party has subscribed over the years.

"It is well known that in many instances the Home Guard movement, which at all times was under the direct supervision of the police force, served well the communities in which they were established. Every effort was constantly made to persuade JLP supporters to join and serve.

"One recalls the now Minister of Industry, Douglas Vaz praising the work of the Home Guards in his constituency, when he was in opposition.

"The People's National Party takes note of the fact that the Jamaica Labour Party seeks at all times to keep the society off balance by the continued distortion of facts whenever it finds itself in the kind of predicament in which it now finds itself, namely its inability to manage the country's finances successfully.

"The People's National Party serves notice that no amount of propaganda and distortion of facts will sway the Party from its goal of providing for the country from time to time the kind of responsible opposition and government which Jamaica so badly needs if it is to move forward out of the mess in which this Government has placed the country."

CSO: 3298/832

IRRIGATION SYSTEMS UNDERGOING EXPANSION THROUGHOUT ISLAND

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 16 Jul 83 p 12

[Text]

TWO NEW SCHEMES — in Braco Trelawny and Charlemont, St. Catherine — will bring to six the number of irrigation systems providing irrigation water for small farmers and estates across Jamaica.

In addition to these, infrastructure is now being put in place to bring 3,000 acres of land under irrigation in the Pedro Plains in St. Elizabeth.

A statement from the Jamaica Information Service revealing these facts, said that the Minister of Local Government the Hon. Alva Ross, stated in the House of Representatives last week, that the implementation of the two new schemes in Braco and Charlemont would bring to six, the total of public irrigation schemes in Jamaica.

Mr. Ross also disclosed that the Ministry of Local Government had spent approximately \$5-million in recent times, providing irrigation water for small farmers and estates Island-wide. The expenditure, he said, includes putting in infrastructure for two new schemes, constructing, lining and refurbishing canals, as well as general maintenance.

The statement went on to say that other existing irrigation systems include the Rio Cobre Irrigation Scheme and the St. Dorothy Irrigation Authority, both located in St. Catherine; the Mid-Clarendon Irrigation Authority in Clarendon; and the Hounslow Irrigation Authority in St. Elizabeth.

The implementation of the two new Schemes is part of Government's plans to accelerate the development of rural communities with a view to increasing agricultural production and the development of agro-industrial activities in order to achieve the economic objectives of the country, the release said.

The public irrigation systems provide irrigation water for small

farmers and estates which grow such crops as sugar cane, banana, citrus, and cash crops which include rice, vegetables and pumpkins. The irrigation system also support dairy and cattle-rearing enterprises.

These schemes provide water for approximately 85,000 acres of land. The Rio Cobre supplies water for 251 farmers; the St. Dorothy Scheme provides for 150 farmers; and Mid-Clarendon for 600 farmers; while Hounslow supplies 160 farmers with water for their farms.

The Braco and Charlemont Schemes will bring an additional 1,000 acres of land under irrigation.

The provision of water for irrigation purposes has been heavily subsidised by the Ministry of Local Government, in most instances by over 91%. In the case of Mid-Clarendon, for example, while it costs the Authority \$150 per cubic yard per hour per annum, the farmers pay a fee of only \$9 for that amount of water to be supplied on their farms.

Minister Ross, however, announced in March of this year, that the Ministry was reviewing the system with a view to increasing the fees which were, in most cases, over 23 years old.

Mr. Ross pointed out that the Ministry could not continue that level of subsidy as the service could only be improved and be made more efficient if the authorities were to become more economically viable. This, he said, could be achieved if the fees were revised to create a greater generation of income and the farmers would also benefit from improved service.

Infrastructure is also now being put into place to bring a further 3,000 acres of land under irrigation in the Pedro Plains in St. Elizabeth. The types of crops most suitable for the area have been identified as well as the irrigation system to be used.

GOVERNMENT MP PREDICTS REVOLT IF NO ACTION TAKEN ON RURAL NEEDS

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 1 Aug 83 p 12

[Text]

Government backbencher, Dr. Horace Chang, Member of Parliament for Western Hanover, in calling for "radical steps" to redesign the "insensitive" structure of Government to the needs of rural Jamaica, has warned that one day the country is going to "go up," unless action is forthcoming.

Making his contribution to the Sectoral Budget Debate on Tuesday night in the House of Representatives, Dr. Chang emphasised the need for a restructuring of the Government bureaucratic structure to one which was flexible and sensitive to the needs of rural people.

"Talk of democracy, stability and improvement will continue to be talk and some day this country is going to go up," Dr. Chang said.

"We cannot continue to maintain rural Jamaica in a state of underdevelopment, poverty and deprivation and sit here comfortably and think we have achieved a stable and prosperous society. It is a risk we run which is a very serious one that we need to take note of," said Dr.

Chang, a medical practitioner.

He called for a separate agency of Government to deal with the problem of rural rehabilitation and development.

In his third year as a Member of the House, Dr. Chang, who devoted his speech to development and rural Jamaica, noted that the traditional approach to this section of Jamaica was not working as the quality of life of the people as a whole was not improving.

The approach which spoke about how many factories or schools had been built from time to time had no significance, he said. Many MPs failed to return to the House as the quality of the rural people had changed very little despite the statistics which were recited off from time to time, he said.

One of the fundamental problems, he said, which was resulting in the lack of improvement in the quality of life in rural Jamaica, stemmed from the fact that the people responsible for planning developments were based in the urban sector and were oriented towards it.

Using health as an example, Dr. Chang referred to the Jamaica Population Project II where a number of health centres were

built in rural Jamaica. Two were built in his constituency at a cost of \$1.2 million.

Dr. Chang said he saw no reason why traditional centres which would cost half of what was expended on these centres, could not have been built. If this had been done, the savings could have been used to start an economic base like a traditional bakery, community laundry, a bee-keeping or goat-rearing project or to repair the houses of some of the people who had "to hide between the rain drops when rain fell."

These measures would be of service to rural individuals who in a real way were suffering from deprivation, and socially because of the conditions under which they existed.

According to Dr. Chang, the new Type II health centre would be an edifice which was beautiful and a "good monument to the architect and planner of the day."

In addition somebody would write a beautiful paper about the fall of infant mortality and increased parent care. However, this would not change the fact that the people would continue to live as before: "hungry, suffering, sick, and neglect-

ed.

Charging over-designing of rural facilities, Dr. Chang, still using the example of the health centre, said that rural communities would be unable to maintain facilities like those.

Shifting to housing, he said this was also another area where planners had gone wrong by building \$45,000-houses which rural people could not afford.

He also mentioned excessive expenditure on roads involving casual labour cost at \$20 per day and on heavy vehicles and equipment. Dr. Chang pointed to improvements he had achieved in his constituency once he had involved the people and they began to realise the importance of the roads to them. Education of the people with a view to their involvement in projects like road building was one way of getting them involved in community development, he said.

He also called for involvement of the trade unions in this area of road building.

Criticising over-capitalisation in rural communities, Dr. Chang said that much capital was being spent without an improvement in the quality of life.

Citing several examples, Dr. Chang criticised the planners who sat in their office, for their "inflexible and insensitive" approach to rural people whom they did not treat as "real people," but "dots on charts."

Saying that he was not blaming Civil Servants, many of whom were "very flexible and reasonable" when one got to know them, Dr. Chang said that the system was designed not to inter-phase with the people but to extend the controlling influence of the colonial Government.

Everything was judged in terms of G.N.P., G.D.P., housing starts, schools built, water supplies designed and roads built. "Nobody thinks of the fact that you are dealing with people who are suffering people, and people who have feelings..."

It was at this point that he called for "radical steps" to redesign the structure of Government towards the flexibility and sensitivity of the people. "Talk of democracy, stability and improvement will continue to be talk and some day this country is going to go up," he said.

"We cannot continue to maintain rural Jamaica in a state of underdevelopment, poverty and deprivation and sit here comfortably and think we have achieved a stable society. It is a risk we run which is a very serious one that we need to take note of."

Dr. Chang referred to the modern urban sector which was dominated by professionals like himself. He said he had the privilege of a university education. He was a trained professional and like professionals in this sector aspired for a quality of life which was reasonable.

Professionals of today lived in one world wherever they might be; they were also trained in the same schools. Their fine life style was characterised by "videos, Volvos and Benz" which, Dr. Chang said, he saw nothing wrong with.

What was wrong, he said, was to enforce these values and perceptions on the poor rural areas which in turn developed rising expectations beyond their ability to produce and achieve and "in fact destroys the base of society and the opportunity to build a society that is really dynamic and growing."

This was where democracy came in. Dr. Chang said, as he criticised "many of us in the modern urban sector" who lacked the responsibility and care to reorganise the inherited Government structure.

Appealing for understanding of the rural poor, Dr. Chang said that their confidence had to be won, following which they could be organised and mobilised to create the dynamism in the society which would lead to them improving the quality of life.

Dr. Chang then called for a separate agency of Government to deal with rural development and rehabilitation and coordinate all planning. It would deal not only with social problems but economic ones such as providing small economic enterprises.

In a world of "costly money, high inflation and recession", Dr. Chang expressed his appreciation to the Government, the Prime Minister and Jamaica National Investment Promotion for the success recorded in attracting investment, but warned that the country would not be able to attract investment as rapidly as was required to solve the problem of unemployment.

Also, whatever investment was coming would be attracted to the modern urban sector which had the facilities.

Dr. Chang referred to the neglect of the small farmers who had been the mainstay of the country's small farming, adding that they needed to be given some care, some understanding and some development to pull them into the 20th century.

These farmers had continued to build an independent small farming community and contribute to the national wealth. Dr. Chang hailed the Agro 21

programme as one of the finest programmes ever presented by a Government but which would leave out thousands of small farmers.

He also disagreed with what he said was a tendency in the world and in the country which had destroyed a lot of poor developing societies labelling people who spoke out for the poor as "socialists, communists and that sort."

He said: "We don't find we can be militant about what is right, we have to find some ideological preaching to hide behind." That sort of thing, he said, led to polarisation in the society.

WORKERS PARTY CONDEMNS ARREST OF MEMBER VISITING U.S.

KIPASTON THE DAILY GLEANER in English 30 Jul 83 p 30

[Text]

Mr John Haughton, a member of the Workers Party of Jamaica and Secretary of the National Union of Democratic Teachers has been detained by U.S. Immigration Authorities in Miami.

According to the WPJ, Mr Haughton was detained on Wednesday July 27 when he arrived in Miami for a short vacation with his brother (Broni) and his family.

The WPJ said that Mr Haughton has a valid multiple entry U.S. visa for some ten years, and that he was last in the USA in March 1982 at a conference on Black studies in Chicago.

The WPJ says that protests against the detention have been made in the USA by several groups. Mr Haughton, according to the WPJ faces deportation when he appears before the courts on Thursday, August 4.

I H E W P J STATEMENT Comrade John Haughton, Central Committee member of the Workers Party of Jamaica (WPJ) and General Secretary of the National Union of Democratic Teachers (NUT) has been detained by the Reagan Administration's Immigration Authorities in Miami.

Comrade Haughton was detained on Wednesday July 27 on his arrival in Miami, despite being the holder of a valid multiple entry U.S. visa for some ten years. He is charged with being a member of the Central Committee of a Communist Party of a foreign state.

A leading WPJ CC member for several years, Comrade Haughton is being detained at the North Krome Processing Centre in Miami, a detention camp for minority group immigrants on so-called "criminal" charges. He faces deportation when he appears before the courts next week Thursday, August 4.

Comrade Haughton flew to the United States for the purpose of a short vacation with his brother and his family. He last visited the United States in March of last year when he represented the Workers Party at the 6th Annual Conference of the National Council for Black Studies in Chicago. At that time, as on all his previous visits to the United States during the past ten years, Comrade Haughton was allowed free entry.

Commenting on Comrade Haughton's detention,

Dr. Trevor Munroe, General Secretary, WPJ said it confirmed the "intensification of the all round attack by the Reagan Administration on the political rights and freedoms of not just communists and revolutionaries but all the people of the region fighting for their rights."

Comrade Munroe further noted that this attack by the Reagan Administration was opposed by a broad cross-section of the American people. This has been borne out by the protests of various academics and organisations in the United States to the continued denial by the US authorities of a visa to Comrade Munroe. This action by the Reagan administration's authorities over the past two (2) years has prevented Comrade Munroe taking up any of the several invitations issued to him to address academics and other groupings in the U.S.

The WPJ General Secretary said "these protests (against the attacks of the Reagan Administration on political rights and freedoms) need to be stronger and louder, not only from individuals and organisations but governments as well, in order for the Reagan Administration to be forced into more democratic positions."

"The Workers Party of Jamaica will leave no stone unturned in the case of Comrade Haughton to ensure legal defense against the trumped up charges and in struggling for his right, and the right of all people in the region, to travel freely," Comrade Munroe said.

GOVERNMENT SEEKS \$40-MILLION LOAN FOR FACTORY REHABILITATION

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 16 Jul 83 p 1

[text] A US\$40-million loan is being negotiated to continue the Government's industrial rehabilitation programme, Prime Minister, the Rt. Hon Edward Seaga, announced at the official opening of the National Industrial Development Company (NIDCO) on Marcus Garvey Drive, Kingston, on Wednesday.

Mr. Seaga said that a loan of US\$35 million had already been negotiated for the re-tooling and fitting of factories and that the money had almost come to an end in terms of utilization. Hence, he said, a further loan of US\$40 million was being negotiated to be of further assistance to the programme and this should be available next year.

This programme, according to him, is part of the re-adjustment strategy of the manufacturing sector under the structural adjustment programme. The programme, he stressed, was not being introduced on an ad hoc basis but would be measured out in timely steps after studies of the sector had been completed.

He also announced that three studies were being done. The first study was to assess the competitiveness of the Jamaican product in the local market so as to enable the Government to determine what would be the outcome if the programme of relaxation of import restrictions and imports were introduced into the market place.

The second study was to determine how equipped was the manufacturing sector in terms of capital goods. This study would assess the equipment at the factories to ascertain whether they were able to produce in a competitive and efficient manner the goods required for export. The final study would look at Jamaica's competitiveness in the export market.

He said the first study had been completed shortly before the formalization of the parallel market and had shown that one-third of the products were competitive and nearly another one-third were marginally competitive. However, Mr. Seaga said, because the parallel market had made imports more expensive the study had to be reviewed.

The result of the review showed that the great majority of products being produced in Jamaica were competitive with the corresponding imports.

Correspondingly, there has been a substantial reduction in those that were not competitive, he observed.

The Prime Minister stated that as soon as the studies have been completed they would be made available to the private and manufacturing sector. He also disclosed that next month Government would be holding discussions with the private sector in relation to the structural adjustments programme.

THE MINISTER of Industry and Commerce, Hon. Douglas Vaz, who also spoke, described NIDCO as a "monument to self-reliance" and pointed out that its launching marked the second phase of Jamaica's industrial revolution, NIDCO's task was to help the country to earn more foreign exchange and to put Jamaica on a firm footing.

NIDCO, he said, was set up to administer Government's structural adjustment programme particularly in the sub-sectors which had been pinpointed as growth areas.

On Wednesday the GAMEX Training Centre, a part of NIDCO's complex dedicated to teaching garment and sewn products workers, was also opened. Mr. Vaz said that 20 factories would be built at the complex for the production of garment and sewn products export market.

CSO: 3298/832

MINISTER COMMENTS ON AGRICULTURAL IMPORTS, OTHER ISSUES

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 16 Jul 83 p 9

[Text]

A close watch is to be kept on "every single application that comes in for every licence to import an agricultural product", by the restructured Agricultural Marketing Corporation, the Minister of Agriculture, the Hon. Dr. Percy Brodenick, said on Wednesday.

And while the AMC Board watches, it would be reporting to the Minister on the latest developments.

Dr. Brodenick, who was delivering the guest speaker's address at the annual general meeting of the Jamaica Agricultural Society, in the Bank of Jamaica auditorium, on Wednesday, said that while the new functions of the corporation differed somewhat from those of the former body, "it will be highly representative", with all the relevant organisations, having members on it.

The Minister who, early in his speech, told his hearers that large earnings were being made by illegal importers of agricultural items, said they would be surprised at the list of

items being brought in illegally and at the persons who were importing these items.

Mentioning in particular the illegal importation of onions and peas, Dr. Brodenick said, "a lot of it originates from places that would surprise you, directed by people who may amaze you and operated by people in positions that would shock you... You still have some here... for you will never stop Mafia."

Dr. Brodenick said that as he addressed them, he had a claim on his desk from a lady who was claiming expenses of \$27,000, representing the cost of freight and other expenses. "That is not the price of the product --that is just the expenses. So figure it out for yourself; check the price of the product and the multiplier effect... I tell you that the importation of onions into this country is big business."

Government had taken a very serious look at the matter of illegal agricultural imports; and the Prime Minister had held a meet-

ing on the matter. He repeated that farmers would be surprised at the sources of illegal importation. Farmers should be assured that the vigilance continues.

In conclusion, he urged those who were producers in agriculture to become more aware and more vigilant about the trade in agricultural items. "Whenever you see on sale produce which is not grown in this country, you have a responsibility to report it to your Land Authority. Go into the market place, buy some of it; get the receipts; get the evidence and produce it to the authority. You need to make the effort. A lot of us come here and talk but don't take any action when the time comes."

It was then that he told them that a major area of strength of the reorganised AMC Board would be that every single application for every licence to import agricultural products would have to come before it; and "that Board is going to make representations to me."

ANALYSIS MADE OF PROBLEMS FACING SUGAR INDUSTRY

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 29 Jul 83 pp 14, 29

[Article by Franklin McKnight]

[Text] THE Sugar Industry in Jamaica is expected to fail to make 200,000 tons of sugar this year, for the second consecutive year.

According to information coming out of the industry the target for the present crop is 198,000 tons of sugar and even if that should be achieved this would be the worst sugar crop in Jamaica in 35 years. Yet it is doubted that even this figure will be achieved although grinding is scheduled to run into September in an all out, but costly, effort to reach the modest target.

The poor performance of the sugar industry this year comes against the background of expressions last year by key figures in the industry that it had hit rock bottom last year and this year would possibly reach 210,000, marking the beginning of a "bounce back".

The production levels also run against Government projections set out in its agreement with the IMF and the World Bank in which a significant increase in production over the 220,000 of the 1980 crop was predicted. In the Extended Facility Agreement with the IMF it is stated: "The sugar industry has a potential market with the EEC regime and an ISA quota of up to 255,000 tons, but current exports are only 160,000 tons...The objective is to lift the production of sugar from 260,000 tons to 330,000 tons and exports to 230,000 by Fiscal Year 1983/84. Incremental receipts would be some US\$30 million."

That is to say, the Government was expecting that this year there would be an increase in production of about 130,000 tons over the quantity which will in fact materialise. Further, Government was expecting to export about

30,000 tons more of sugar than will be produced this year.

The meaning of the failure to gain the estimated US\$30 million will hardly be lost on a country conscious of the severe shortage of foreign exchange and the cost that we are paying for that shortage. It should combine with a similar shortfall last year to sugar and another minus \$10 million in banana, to hurt rural areas even more.

Draining to waste

But the failure to gain this valuable foreign exchange is not the sum of the burden that the sugar industry is putting on this country. There is foreign exchange draining to waste through the inefficient operation of the industry, particularly the factories.

A small example seems appropriate. Between Monday and Tuesday of this week the factory at Duckenfield in St. Thomas which is straining to reach 10,000 tons — a cut in the original target of 12,000 — produced 75 tons of sugar and, over those two days, used \$10,000 of heavy duty oil in the process. The equation represents extravagant waste. There are reports too of extravagance of another kind with the scarce foreign exchange given to the industry. The management of one factory is reported to have bought four water heaters costing \$16,000, for estate dwellings at a time when its field supervisors were without any form of transportation and when tractors needed to take off cane were parked for want of parts.

Grays Inn factory is expected to lose nearly \$1 million on the present crop.

This can hardly cause any alarm, for what else can be expected when as in the present crop a break down at the factory results in cane (which has a cane/sugar ratio of 15:1) having to be transported from St. Mary through St. Andrew and Kingston and out to Bernard Lodge in St. Catherine.

But what does Jamaica gain for all this. The answer which may be advanced is that it provides jobs and supports nearly 200,000 people. Admittedly so. But the price! The argument about jobs is advanced as if other industries, for example dairy or winter vegetables would not employ people and save and earn foreign exchange.

Sugar is sold to Jamaicans for far more than the price at which it could be imported. The ludicrous price is built into products such as buns, biscuits, soft drinks, syrup... which workers, nearly all Jamaican workers, buy.

The purpose of an industry can hardly be to provide jobs at all cost.

And look how backward sugar cane areas are. The gloom and stagnation of many cane areas is only broken with the ephemeral fillip provided by wages and bonuses which provides activity in the bars and clears credit at the shops.

But the argument about providing jobs is falling apart. Many of the workers now want to cut and run — but with fat redundancy payments. Mr. Parnel Charles, MP for Eastern St. Thomas where the Duckenfield factory is located, was told this much recently when he spoke to workers there. They want to get off the sinking ship. Mr. Charles reportedly told them that there was not even money to buy parts for machinery to grind the cane they have now, much less to pay redundancy.

Uncertainty

There is at present a great deal of uncertainty in the industry, as was expressed in a resolution by the All Island Cane Farmers Association this week, about what is going to happen next year to factories. Not even half the acreage of the cane in the field is fertilized. Several farmers who have run up against obstacles to loans at the PC banks and the Agricultural Credit Bank have not put any cane into the ground. Machinery and vehicles continue to age but replacements are hard to come by. Some factories are being run on a sort of hand-to-mouth relationship with National Sugar Co., and some of them have had supplies retrieved after delivery because there is no money.

Prime Minister Seaga, nearly two years ago, said this to Parliament: "The sugar industry has one last chance to redeem itself from all the bad management, insufficient work, poor cultivation and inadequate supplies of the past. The Government is prepared to give it full support in re-structuring services and supplies for this coming crop (1982/83), so that with the right inputs we shall see productivity rebound in 1983 to substantially higher levels."

There has been no "rebound". The whole thing continues to sink. Whatever support has been provided has disappeared into a bottomless pit. The industry is on its own cycle of destruction which contracts with every crop. But we in the meantime provide the energy for this treadmill.

This is only one of the failing areas of Mr. Percival Broderick's portfolio.

BRIEFS

VOTER LIST POSTPONEMENT--Preparation for the presentation of the official Voters' List is to be postponed. The Leader of the House, the Hon. J.A.C. Smith, who is responsible for electoral matters, gave notice in the House of Representatives yesterday of first reading of a Bill entitled An Act to postpone the preparation under the Representation of the People Act of the official lists of electors. The Bill's memorandum of objects and reasons states: "Section 7 of the Representation of the People Act provides that the Chief Electoral Officer shall prepare and publish an official list of electors annually in respect of every polling division, and during the enumeration period. "The enumeration period is a twelve-month period commencing on a date which the Minister, acting on the advice of the Electoral Advisory Committee, prescribes. The last enumeration period commenced on June 7, 1980 and ended on June 6, 1981, but, because of a decision that voter registration should be linked to photo-identification cards, no enumeration of voters has been carried out since that period. Any enumeration at the present time would therefore be outside the period stipulated in the principal Act. The purpose of the Bill is to provide that (a) no official lists should be prepared during the period June 7, 1981 to the present time, and (b) that it shall be lawful for the Minister now to prescribe an enumeration period". [Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 27 Jul 83 p 25]

CRITICISM OF MANLEY TRIP--Mixed Opinion--I hear that there is consternation among some that our leader of Opposition should have accepted an invitation from Castro to travel in a special plane to attend the graduation ceremony of his son in Havana. They say that it is like Reagan sending a plane for Seaga to attend a graduation of his son in the USA. The principle is the same--gifts from foreign leaders of such magnitude are to be carefully watched. Yet others say it is a nice gesture, and a loving father was right to accept it. [From anonymous column "Listening Post," signed "The Listener"] [Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 16 Jul 83 p 3]

WATER PROTEST--Black River--Residents of Santa Cruz demonstrated on Saturday morning, July 9, against the lack of water in sections of Santa Cruz. Traffic had to be diverted through the streets of that town because of the demonstrations by over 200 people. The demonstration lasted for nearly 2 hours. A heavy detachment of police was on hand to maintain order but towards 11 o'clock the Special Task Force, heavily armed, was brought in and ordered the demonstrators to disperse. Objection to the order was voiced by a number of

the citizens who said they refused to be treated like criminals. The water problem began early last year and has since become unbearable. This resulted from the consistent breaking down of the pump at the Southhampton well. According to information received by this correspondent, the well has an engineering fault and because of this, the shaft keeps bending, thus affecting the distribution to Leeds, Jerusalem, Beadles Boulevard and Glencoe. A second well was being dug since early this year but was also discovered to have a fault in construction, it is reported. [Excerpt] [Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 18 Jul 83 p 3]

MORANT BAY HOUSING--RESIDENTS of Morant Bay and adjacent districts in St. Thomas who for over two years have been calling for a housing scheme in the area which would not only provide much-needed housing but employment for hundreds in the parish as well, have been delighted to hear that a housing developer from Kingston has got the all-clear for a major housing scheme for that town. The project aims at providing nearly 300 low-income units and about 250 middle-income houses, and it is anticipated that work on this project may start before the end of August this year. Morant Bay, and the parish of St. Thomas in general, have been two of the areas in this country where the most housing development has been planned over the years--stretching from Resthaven near Harbour View to Retreat in the east. But apart from obtaining official approval, many of the projects have not got off the ground. Observers believe that it would require the substantial sum of \$200-million to develop all the approved sub-divisions in St. Thomas. The project that is about to start will provide employment for hundreds of persons and may entail an expenditure of nearly \$10-million. [Excerpts] [Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 16 Jul 83 p 6]

BUILDING INDUSTRY PROBLEMS--The building and construction industry, which at the beginning of 1983 aimed at achieving a record growth for the year, may not be able to achieve this target even if all the ills that beset the industry at the moment are removed before the end of August. This is the opinion of many building contractors and private housing developers. At the same time, a number of workers are complaining that they are not being paid by certain building contractors. These contractors, on their part, claim that they are unable to collect money from job-owners for work done for nearly six months ago. One builder said that there is no money available in the banking system to the building industry; and reports are that a very large financial organisation is now in difficulty and is unable to pay its staff although it has over one hundred million dollars in assets. Manufacturers of building materials are also complaining that their products are not going fast enough to ensure that they are in "safe waters" and one of them said that he might have to lay off workers within the next week. [Excerpts] [Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 23 Jul 83 p 10]

CSO: 3298/833

BRIEFS

NEVIS ELECTIONS--BASSETERRE, St. Kitts, Saturday (CANA)--ELECTIONS to fill five seats on the newly established Nevis Island Assembly will be held on August 22, Premier Kennedy Simmonds said yesterday. Dr. Simmonds made the announcement in the House of Assembly shortly after Parliament had approved the setting up of the Assembly. The body will look after most of the Nevis' affairs after St. Kitts-Nevis gains independence on September 19. The Premier said the five parishes on the island--St. George, St. James, St. Paul, St. John and St. Thomas--would each be represented on the assembly. Yesterday's sitting of the House also approved an order to increase the number of parliamentary constituencies on Nevis from two to three and on St. Kitts from seven to eight. Under the independence Constitution, Nevis, located about two miles off the southern tip of St. Kitts, will be given a large measure of autonomy through the Assembly. The Opposition Labour Party abstained from voting on the measures. Minister for Nevis Affairs, Simeon Daniel told the House he understood four parties would contest the seats. He seconded the order for the setting up of the Assembly. [Bridgetown SUNDAY ADVOCATE in English 24 Jul 83 p 3]

CSO: 3298/834

BRIEFS

THREAT TO PUBLIC SERVICE--KINGSTOWN, St. Vincent, Wednesday, (CANA)--Former Government Minister Randolph Russell, now an Opposition Parliamentarian has complained that two amendments recently made to St. Vincent's Pensions, and Teachers' Pensions Acts subjected public servants to political victimisation. Two weeks ago, Parliament amended the acts to enable civil servants and teachers to retire at 60 years of age instead of 55. But the amendments apply automatically only to new entrants into the civil service and teaching profession, those presently employed having first to seek the approval of Cabinet to continue to age 60. Russell said that to have given Cabinet the power to approve such extensions virtually made civil servants and teachers direct employees of the politicians, and would only serve to increase the incidence of political victimisation. Russell argues that the matter should have been left in the hands of the country's Public Service Commission (PSC) that is empowered under the constitution to deal with matters of appointments and dismissal of public officers. The former Health Minister who was also the country's Opposition Leader at one time, said he was going to call on the St. Vincent and the Grenadines Public Service Union (PSU) to resist that section of the amendments. [Bridgetown BARBADOS ADVOCATE in English 14 Jul 83 p 3]

PRIVATE SECTOR HEAD--KINGSTOWN, St. Vincent, Wednesday, (CANA)--Ken Boyea, Manager of East Caribbean Flour Mills (ECFM) has been elected the first President of the newly formed St. Vincent and the Grenadines Development Foundation (SVGDF)--established last month to more effectively mobilise the country's private sector resources towards greater socio-economic development of the state. It will provide financial, technical and managerial assistance to promising new businesses in the island. [Bridgetown BARBADOS ADVOCATE in English 14 Jul 83 p 3]

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